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Obama Makes Final Thanksgiving Turkey Pardon

KEVIN FREKING

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama got the holiday mood started at the White House on Wednesday with the traditional pardoning of the national Thanksgiving turkey, this time with his nephews standing in for daughters Malia and Sasha.

The light-hearted ceremony in the Rose Garden also featured Iowa-raised turkeys Tater and Tot, with the latter receiving the formal reprieve. Obama said he has used the past seven pardoning ceremonies to embarrass his daughters with what he called a "corny-copia" of bad jokes about turkeys. "This year, they had a scheduling conflict. Actually, they just couldn't take my jokes anymore," the president said. His nephews, Austin and Aaron Robinson, filled in admirably.

Continued on page 3



President Barack Obama, with his nephews Aaron Robinson and Austin Robinson, and National Turkey Federation Chairman John Reicks, pardons the National Thanksgiving Turkey, Tot, Wednesday, Nov. 23, 2016, during a ceremony in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington. This is the 69th anniversary of the National Thanksgiving Turkey presentation.

(AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)



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Dalai Lama: 'I have no worries' about Trump's election



The Dalai Lama, left, speaks at the Janraiseeg Temple of Gandantegchinlen monastery in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. The Dalai Lama said Wednesday he has "no worries" about Donald Trump's election as U.S. president.

(AP Photo/G. Namjilsangarav)

G. NAMJILSANGARAV

G. BROWN

Associated Press

ULAANBAATAR, Mongolia

(AP) — Exiled Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama said Wednesday he has "no worries" about Donald Trump's election as U.S. president, adding that he expects the businessman will align his future policies with global realities.

The 1989 Nobel Peace Prize winner's remarks were his most extensive yet regarding the election of the real estate tycoon

and reality television star who has called for putting America's concerns first and shown little interest in Washington's traditional espousal of global democracy and social justice.

Commenting at the conclusion of a four-day visit to Mongolia, the leader of Tibetan Buddhism said he looks forward to seeing Trump at some point following the Jan. 20 inauguration. Such meetings usually draw protests from Beijing, which accuses the Dalai Lama of seeking to split Tibet from China.

"I feel during the election, the candidate has more freedom to express. Now once they (are) elected, having the responsibility, then they have to carry their cooperation, their work, according (to) reality," he told reporters in the Mongolian capital, Ulaanbaatar. "So I have no worries."

Tenzin Dhardon Sharling, spokeswoman for the self-declared Tibetan government-in-exile in the northern Indian town of Dharamsala, said she was not aware of any plans for a meeting between the Dalai Lama and Trump.

She said the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan exile community have enjoyed good relations with successive U.S. presidents and expected that to continue under a Trump administration.

China had demanded Mongolia scrap his visit for the sake of the "general picture of a sound and steady development of bilateral ties."

Mongolia's fragile economy is heavily dependent on China, and the countries are in discussions of a \$4.2 billion Chinese loan to help pull it out of a recession.

China has apparently delayed talks on the loan in response to the visit by the Dalai Lama, who has lived in India since fleeing Tibet in 1959.

Mongolian government spokesman Otgonbayar Gombojav said Wednesday that China had indefinitely postponed a visit to China next Mon-

day by Mongolian officials to discuss the loan. China's Foreign Ministry offered no confirmation but demanded Mongolia take measures to "eliminate the negative impact" of the visit.

"The incorrect actions of the Mongolian side regarding the Dalai's visit harmed the political foundations of China-Mongolian relations and caused a negative impact on the development of the bilateral relations," spokesman Geng Shuang told reporters at a daily briefing.

China says Tibet has been part of its territory for centuries, although many Tibetans say they were effectively an independent country for much of that time.

Asked to comment on climate change — which Trump has denounced as a hoax — the Dalai Lama said he was heartened by the turn to alternative energy sources such as solar and wind power.

"I think ... we must now concentrate on these things. I don't know whether we can reduce cars or not. People everywhere busy, busy.

I don't know if it will be possible," he said.

Referencing past efforts to minimize damage to the ozone layer, the Dalai Lama said that raised the chances of similar cooperation on climate change.

"So that gives us hope, there is possibility," he said. While the U.S. has in the past called on China to respect civil liberties in Tibet, Trump has praised authoritarian rulers such as Russia's Vladimir Putin who have been strongly criticized by human rights groups.

Chinese President Xi Jinping congratulated Trump in a phone call and the country's state media have welcomed his election as harkening a less confrontational policy toward China. Those outlets have also applauded Trump's announcement that he would abandon a U.S.-led free trade agreement in Asia that had excluded China. □

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Tons of security: Dump trucks protect NY Thanksgiving parade

TOM HAYS
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Fans of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade who come to see the soaring SpongeBob and Snoopy balloons may get a far less heartwarming sight this year: giant dump trucks filled with sand.

More than 80 city sanitation trucks will be used at intersections and other strategic spots along the 2 1/2 mile parade route to create an imposing physical barrier to terror. The trucks weigh about 16 tons empty and up to twice that with sand. "You can ram a New York City Sanitation Department sand truck with a lot of things, but you're not going to move it," said John Miller, the New York Police Department's top counter-terrorism official.

While the trucks have been used like this before — most recently to protect Trump Tower — the New York Police Department says they will play a bigger role at this year's parade in the wake of the cargo truck attack in Nice, France, that killed more than 80 people and

a recent posting in an English-language Islamic State magazine that called the parade "an excellent target."

As scary as that sounds, authorities say there's no confirmation of a credible threat and they have repeatedly urged spectators to not stay away.

Miller said that while such postings are psychological warfare intended to spread a message of fear, "We never accede to that." A front-page headline in Tuesday's Daily News creatively paraphrased the message the NYPD seeks to send: "Truck You, ISIS!"

Aside from the trucks, security for the parade includes teams of officers armed with assault weapons, bomb-sniffing dogs and portable radiation detectors. Plainclothes officers will blend in with the crowd, and other officers will be posted on rooftops along the parade route. The effort comes at a time when the nation's largest police department already is stretching its resources to protect the midtown Man-



New York police officers patrol sidewalk outside Macy's as preparations continue for the Macy's Parade, Wednesday Nov. 23, 2016, in New York. More than 80 New York City sanitation trucks filled with sand will be used along a 2½ mile route of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade to create an imposing physical barrier to terror. (AP Photo/Bebeto Matthews)

hattan home of President-elect Donald Trump. On Election Day, at least a half-dozen dump trucks walled off Trump Tower's entrance on Fifth Avenue, making for photos that went viral on the internet.

There was a similar dump truck spectacle with Ron-

ald Reagan as president in 1983, when the Secret Service stationed them at the White House. Officials at the time indicated it was a response to unspecified threats in the wake of the truck bomb attack on a Marine compound in Beirut that killed 239 American soldiers.

In recent years, authorities also have used the trucks to help safeguard the United Nations General Assembly and President Barack Obama's motorcades when he visits the city — an instant formula for epic gridlock. □

Obama

Continued from Front

Obama joked they had not yet been turned cynical by Washington. "They still believe in bad puns. They still believe in the grandeur of this occasion," Obama said. "They still have hope." The White House asked people on Twitter to vote for which turkey will receive the pardon, though both will get a reprieve. The White House even provided a biography for each bird to help voters with their decision. For example, Tater's favorite snack is worms. Tot prefers tomato slices. Each 18-week-old bird weighed in at about 40 pounds.

While only one could be named the "National Thanksgiving Turkey," the White House said that both birds will be sent to their new home at Virginia Tech's "Gobblers Rest" where they will be cared for by veterinarians and students.

The ceremony also gave Obama a chance to reflect on the spirit of Thanksgiving. Obama said it's a time to remember that "we have a lot more in common than divides us." He also challenged Americans to show the world that the United States is a generous and giving country, and to make sure everyone has something to eat on Thanksgiving.

After the ceremony, the president and first family served Thanksgiving meals to residents of the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Washington. The campus is home to 405 previously enlisted service members, who represent every campaign since World War I. Obama served the turkey and gravy and briefly chatted with veterans and workers as they went through the line.

First Lady Michelle Obama served beans and spinach, while Sasha provided the mashed potatoes, dressing and cranberry sauce. □

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Experts ask Clinton to seek recount in 3 battleground states



In this Nov. 9, 2016 photo, Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton speaks in New York, where she conceded her defeat to Republican Donald Trump after the hard-fought presidential election. A group of election lawyers and data experts have asked Clinton's campaign to call for a recount of the vote totals in three battleground states, Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania, in order to ensure that a cyberattack was not committed to manipulate the totals.

(AP Photo/Matt Rourke)

JONATHAN LEMIRE
DAVID HAMILTON
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A group of election lawyers and data experts have asked Hillary Clinton's campaign to call for a recount of the vote totals in three battleground states — Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania — to ensure that a cyberattack was not committed to manipulate the totals.

There is no evidence that the results were hacked or that electronic voting machines were compromised. The Clinton campaign on Wednesday did not respond to a request for comment as to whether it would petition for a recount before the three states' fast-approaching deadlines to ask for one.

President-elect Donald Trump won Wisconsin and Pennsylvania by razor-thin margins and has a small lead in Michigan. All three states had been reliably Democratic in recent presidential elections.

The group, led by voting-rights attorney John Bonifaz and J. Alex Halderman, the director of the University of Michigan Center for Computer Security and Society, contacted the Clinton campaign this week. That call, which was first reported by New York Magazine, raised the possibility that Clinton may have received fewer votes than expected in some counties that rely on electronic voting machines.

But Halderman, in an article posted on Medium on

Wednesday, stressed that the group has no evidence of a cyberattack or voting irregularities. He urged that a recount be ordered just to eliminate the possibility. "The only way to know whether a cyberattack changed the result is to closely examine the available physical evidence?—paper ballots and voting equipment in critical states like Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania," Halderman wrote.

Recounts, which are often costly and time-intensive efforts, would likely only be initiated if the Clinton camp pushed for one, though Wisconsin independently announced that it would conduct an audit of its vote. A call for a recount, particularly coming

on the heels of a fiercely contested and sharply partisan election, would likely be cheered by Democrats but denounced by Republicans eager to focus on governing.

A request to the Trump transition team for comment was not immediately returned.

Trump's campaign had long believed that his message of economic populism would resonate in the Rust Belt. He frequently campaigned in Pennsylvania and made a late push in both Wisconsin and Michigan, successfully turning out white working-class voters whom pollsters may have missed.

Many pre-election polls showed Clinton with slight leads. While advocating for the recounts, Halderman writes that "the most likely explanation" for Trump's surprise win "is that the polls were systematically wrong."

The deadlines for petitioning for a recount in all three states are in the coming days, with Wisconsin's on Friday. Green Party candidate Jill Stein announced a fundraising effort Wednesday to pay for such recounts.

The focal point of any possible electoral cyberattack presumably would have been electronic voting machines that, whether or not they are connected to the internet, could be infected with malware that could change vote totals. But many of those machines produce a paper record of the vote that could be checked to see if the vote

tabulations are accurate. Pennsylvania is considered one of the states most susceptible to hacking because 96 percent of its voting machines have no paper trail. Wisconsin is far less vulnerable because it uses electronic machines with voter-verifiable paper trails in most counties. Michigan is considered the safest of the three because it uses paper ballots.

Officials in the three states confirmed that no recounts have been ordered. A spokesman for the U.S. Justice Department says it is not tallying the number of voting complaints to determine whether federal action is warranted.

Many election experts have called for routine post-election audits designed to boost public confidence in vote outcomes, by guarding against both tampering and natural vote-counting mistakes. These could involve spot-checks of the voting records and ballots, typically in randomly selected precincts, to make sure that votes were accurately recorded.

In many states, audits involve hand-counting the votes on paper ballots and comparing the results to the totals stored in the state's electronic voting system. Such audits do sometimes turn up mistakes that reverse an election. That happened in Florida's Palm Beach County in 2012, when a post-election audit determined that the "winners" in two city council races were actually losers. □

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Women for Trump Cabinet: Haley picked for UN, DeVos for Ed

JULIE BYKOWICZ

STEVE PEOPLES

Associated Press

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP)

— Injecting the first diversity into his Cabinet-to-be, Donald Trump selected two Republican women on Wednesday who had unflattering things to say about him during the presidential campaign: South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley to serve as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and charter school advocate Betsy DeVos to lead the Department of Education.

Gov. Haley has little foreign policy experience, yet Trump praised her as "a proven dealmaker." DeVos, like Trump, is new to government but has spent decades working to change America's system of public education.

DeVos and Haley are the first women selected for top-level administration posts as the president-elect works to shape a White House team from scratch. Haley is the daughter of Indian immigrants, so she also would be his first minority selection after a string of announcements of white men.

Retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson said "an announcement is forthcoming" on his role, which would make him the first black choice — possibly as secretary of Housing and Urban Development — but he also suggested he'd be thinking about it over the Thanksgiving holiday.

"I feel that I can make a significant contribution particularly to making our inner cities great for everyone," Carson wrote on his Facebook page.

Trump is also expected to select billionaire investor Wilbur Ross Jr. to lead the Commerce Department,

a senior Trump adviser said Wednesday, speaking only on condition of anonymity because the adviser was

team.

In a Thanksgiving message posted on social media, Trump acknowledged

DeVos, from Michigan, told The Associated Press in July, "A lot of the things he has said are very off-putting



President-elect Donald Trump waves to the crowd as he leaves the New York Times building following a meeting in New York. Injecting the first diversity into his Cabinet-to-be, Trump selected two Republican women on Wednesday who had unflattering things to say about him during the presidential campaign: South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley to serve as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and charter school advocate Betsy DeVos to lead the Department of Education.

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

not authorized to disclose internal deliberations. The 78-year-old Ross, who is white, is chairman and chief strategy officer of private-equity firm W.L. Ross & Co., which has specialized in buying failing companies.

Wednesday's picks came as Trump worked to distance himself from the "alt-right," a movement of white supremacists who continue to cheer his election.

He announced his two new choices in a statement released as he gathered with family behind closed doors at his Palm Beach estate for Thanksgiving. He's spending the holiday there after a week of interviews of potential appointees in New York, punctuated by announcements of members of his national security

that the nation "just finished a long and bruising political campaign."

"Emotions are raw and tensions just don't heal overnight," he added. "It's my prayer that on this Thanksgiving we begin to heal our divisions and move forward as one country strengthened by shared purpose and very, very common resolve."

Bad blood between Trump and his new Cabinet selections had been evident through much of this year's campaign.

"The people of South Carolina are embarrassed by Nikki Haley!" Trump wrote in March. Haley denounced several of his campaign comments and urged voters to "reject the siren call of the angriest voices."

and concerning." On Wednesday, Trump said of his UN selection: "Gov. Haley has a proven track record of bringing people together regardless of background or party affiliation to move critical policies forward for the betterment of her state and our country."

She said she loved her South Carolina post but "when the president believes you have a major contribution to make to the welfare of our nation, and to our nation's standing in the world, that is a calling that is important to heed." While Republicans praised Haley's selection, DeVos faced criticism from left and right. The president of the National Education Association, Lily Eskelsen Garcia, said in

a statement that for years DeVos "has lobbied for failed schemes, like vouchers — which take away funding and local control from our public schools — to fund private schools at taxpayers' expense."

And Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers, tweeted, "Trump has chosen the most ideological, anti-public ed nominee since the creation of the Dept of Education."

At the same time, some conservatives warned that the longtime Republican donor, who has spent millions of dollars — along with her husband — to promote candidates who favor charter schools and school vouchers, also supports the Common Core education standards that Trump railed against during the campaign. Conservatives already were grappling with Trump's Tuesday concession that climate change may be connected to human activity and his reversal of a campaign vow to pursue a criminal investigation into Democratic rival Hillary Clinton.

DeVos addressed criticism head-on, posting a "Q&A" statement that said directly about Common Core: "I am not a supporter — period."

"I do support high standards," she said. But along the way Common Core "got turned into a federal boondoggle."

Just two weeks ago, Trump shocked the political world — including many in his own party — by winning the presidential contest. The billionaire New Yorker has yet to take any formal steps to separate from his international business empire as experts in both parties warn of potential conflicts of interest. □

Drugs, alcohol not involved in bus crash that killed 5 kids

JONATHAN MATTISE

Associated Press

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (AP)

— A school bus driver had no drugs or alcohol in his system when he careened off a road and smashed into a tree, killing five elementary schoolchildren, police said Wednesday.

Chattanooga Police Sgt. Austin Garrett said a toxicology test was performed on Johnnethony Walker, 24, the bus driver now in jail on five vehicular homicide charges.

Police said Walker was driving well over the posted 30 mph limit when he lost control of the bus carrying 37 children on their way home from Woodmore Elementary School. Six children remain in the hospital.

Police disputed one woman's claim that the driver asked the children if they were "prepared to die" just before the wreck. Jasmine Mateen, whose 6-year-old daughter was among the dead, said one of her two surviving children who were on the bus told her about the driver's remarks. Garrett, however, said at a Wednesday press conference: "I want to be very clear on this. No witness we have spoken with has that information or provided it directly to our investigators."

He asked anyone with additional information to bring it to police, who are still interviewing witnesses and reviewing surveillance footage from the bus.

Three of the children killed



In this undated photo released by the Chattanooga PD, Johnnethony Walker, 24, poses for a photo. Walker, the driver of a school bus that was filled with elementary students when it crashed, Monday, Nov. 21, 2016, in Chattanooga, killing at least five children, has been arrested and faces charges including vehicular homicide.

(Chattanooga Police Department via AP)

were in fourth grade, one in first grade and another in kindergarten, said Kirk Kelly, interim superintendent of Hamilton County schools.

Their families remembered them as fun, happy children taken much too soon. D'Myunn Brown liked to play little tricks on grown-ups. The 6-year-old would snatch a cellphone, hide it, then giggle and bat his big brown eyes.

"That's what made him so pretty, and he was as sweet as he could be," said his great-grandmother, Winifred Bray. "I'm still numb. I still can't believe he's gone."

LaFrederick Thirkill remembered his 9-year-old cousin, Cordayja Jones, as a girly-girl who liked dressing up and giving hugs.

Thirkill is the principal at Orchard Knob Elementary, where Cordayja attended before changing schools to Woodmore Elementary. She was a polite little girl, he said. Even though he was her cousin, she called him "Mr. Thirkill" when she saw him in the hallways.

"I remember her as just a kid who always smiles," he said.

Mateen said her 6-year-old daughter Zyaira was a happy, silly girl who loved

to dance and dreamed of growing up to be a doctor like her favorite Disney character, Doc McStuffins. She said she had complained several times about the bus driver speeding through the neighborhood. School officials repeatedly declined to answer questions Wednesday about whether they received complaints about the driver. School Principal Brenda Adamson-Cothran said their focus is on "giving our families and students the support that they need in this tragedy."

The National Transportation Safety Board also is investigating. NTSB chairman Christopher Hart said the agency will look at the driver's actions, the condition of the bus and whether seat belts — something the NTSB has been pushing for — would have made a difference. Walker was involved in another bus accident only two months ago, police said. In September, he was driving the bus into a blind curve when he crossed over the center line and hit an SUV, according to a police report. No one was injured, and the damage to both vehicles was minor. He was not cited for any violations.

Previously, Walker's license had been suspended for a month in 2014 for failure to show proof of insurance, according to state commercial driver records. He appeared to have no criminal record in Tennessee, authorities said. □

Teen shot, man held, case could be a hate crime

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP)

— Police in West Virginia have accused a 62-year-old white man of killing a black 15-year-old after they bumped into each other and exchanged words, and a federal official says the case is under review as a possible federal hate crime.

A complaint signed by Charleston Police Detective C.C. Lioi says William Pulliam, confessed, showed no remorse and told police, "The way I look at it, that's another piece of trash off the street."

Lioi's statement says Pulliam left the scene after the shooting to go have dinner and then visit a friend. A revolver was found at the friend's house.

Police haven't identified the victim, but his mother, Nafia Adkins, told the Charleston Gazette-Mail it was her son, James Means. Pulliam was arraigned on a murder charge and jailed Tuesday, court officials said. He has requested a court-appointed lawyer.

According to city police, the teen was shot Monday evening at an intersection and taken by ambulance to a Charleston hospital, where he was pronounced dead from two gunshot wounds.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Steve Ruby said authorities are in the early stages of reviewing whether the shooting falls within the federal hate crimes statute for killing someone because of their race or color.

Nafia Adkins told the newspaper that people in the community shouldn't hold grudges and leave the investigation of her son's death to authorities.

"We know that justice is going to succeed in this matter," she said.

In the criminal complaint, witnesses told Lioi that the teen and Pulliam bumped into each other in front of the store, where they exchanged words. Pulliam went inside and Means sat down on a nearby porch with friends. □

Police:

Couple planted fake bomb hoping to shoot officers

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP)

— An Alabama couple planted a fake bomb at a suburban elementary school hoping to shoot officers arriving at the scene or even rob a bank, police said Wednesday. Zachary Edwards, 35, and Raphael Dilligard, 34, of Birmingham face charges that include making terrorist threats, rendering a false alarm and possessing a hoax destructive device, said police Capt. Jeff Bridges of Trussville, Alabama.

A hoax bomb was found outside Magnolia Elementary School on Nov. 16, prompting a response that included agents from the FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Authorities said it contained gunpowder, modeling clay and a timer, but no detonator. Experts examined the device and then detonated it at the scene.

"It looked real enough that it concerned us," Bridges said in an interview. Ar-

rested afterward, the couple told investigators what they had planned, according to Bridges. The couple, who share an address, wanted to shoot officers at the school or rob a bank while police were busy dealing with the bogus bomb, he said.

Authorities determined that a stopwatch used as a timer in the fake bomb was sold at Walmart and they began searching stores where it may have been purchased. Authori-

ties said that search led to video surveillance images of Dilligard and, in turn, Edwards.

The man told police he was part of the Black Panthers and the Black Mafia, Bridges said, but it was unclear whether he was actually affiliated with any group. Court records weren't yet available to show whether Edwards or Dilligard had a lawyer who could speak on their behalf. □

US Financial Front:**American home sales reach strongest pace in nearly a decade****JOSH BOAK****AP Economics Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans bought homes in October at the fastest pace in nearly a decade, helped out by low mortgage rates that have since started to climb following the presidential election of Donald Trump. The National Association of

Realtors said this week that sales of existing homes rose 2 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5.6 million. Sales reached their strongest pace since February 2007, a sign that the market is still healing from the collapsing prices and foreclosures that ignited the 2008 financial crisis.

A stable job market and historically cheap borrowing costs have spurred demand from homebuyers this year.

But sales growth has been tempered somewhat by accelerating prices and a shortage of properties on the market. Sales gains could possibly slow in the

coming months as rising mortgage rates are making home loans more expensive.

The average 30-year, fixed-rate mortgage climbed to nearly 4 percent from less than 3.5 percent at the end of October. Few housing experts say that higher rates at this stage will fully

disrupt sales, although it might cause some existing homeowners to stay in place rather than upgrade to new homes and costlier mortgages. The impact of higher rates could be offset if wages accelerate strongly during a Trump administration, giving Americans higher incomes. □

Mortgage rates keep rising after Trump's election win**PAUL WISEMAN****AP Economics Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Long-term U.S. mortgage rates continued to surge this week in the aftermath of Donald Trump's election win.

Mortgage giant Freddie Mac said Wednesday that the average rate on a 30-year fixed rate loan shot up to 4.03 percent, the highest since July 2015 and up from 3.94 percent a week earlier. The rate on 15-year home loans climbed to 3.25 percent, up from 3.14 percent last week and highest since January.

Long-term U.S. interest rates have climbed since Trump was elected Nov. 8. That is largely because bond investors believe the president-elect's plan to cut taxes and spend massively on roads, bridges, airports and other infrastructure could ignite inflation. When they foresee rising inflation, investors demand higher long-term rates and pay lower prices for bonds.

The yield on 10-year Treasury notes has risen from 1.87

percent on Election Day to 2.38 percent Wednesday. The expectations of economic stimulus from tax

On Wednesday, the Dow Jones industrial average closed above 19,000 for the first time.

rally in home sales. The National Association of Realtors said Tuesday that sales of existing homes rose 2



This photo shows a home for sale in Carlsbad, Calif. Long-term U.S. mortgage rates continued to surge this week in the aftermath of Donald Trump's election win.

(AP Photo/Lenny Ignelzi)

cuts and higher infrastructure spending that are driving up interest rates have also pushed stocks higher.

Still, rising mortgage rates pose a threat to the housing market. Low mortgage rates have helped fuel a

percent in October to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5.6 million — strongest pace since February

2007. That's also helped lift home prices. The median price of a previously occupied U.S. home has risen 6 percent over the past year to \$232,200.

Higher mortgage rates, along with rising house prices, could eventually reduce demand for housing.

Mortgage rates will likely keep rising until there's some more understanding of where the economy and housing policy are headed, McLaughlin said. But he doesn't expect U.S. home sales to weaken dramatically unless rates rise to 5 percent.

The Commerce Department reported Wednesday that fewer Americans bought new homes in October, though they are still 12.7 percent higher than they were a year ago. A tight supply of new homes has limited sales.

To calculate average mortgage rates, Freddie Mac surveys lenders across the country between Monday and Wednesday each week. □

US durable goods orders up 4.8 percent in October**MARTIN CRUTSINGER****AP Economics Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Orders for big-ticket manufactured goods increased in October by the largest amount in a year, reflecting a surge in demand for commercial airplanes.

The category that tracks business investment spending showed a far more modest advance, indicating this key category remains under stress.

Orders for durable goods

rose 4.8 percent in October, the Commerce Department reported Wednesday. That is the best showing since a similar advance in October 2015. The gain primarily reflected a 94.1 percent jump in demand for commercial airplanes, an extremely volatile category. The category that tracks business investment plans was up a slight 0.4 percent, erasing only a small part of a 1.4 percent plunge in September.

Business investment spending has been a drag on the economy this year, reflecting in part big cutbacks in the energy sector.

So far this year, orders for nondefense capital goods excluding aircraft — the category used to track business investment — are down 4 percent from the same period in 2015.

This weakness in investment has held back overall growth this year.

Economists said that the small rise in the investment category should strengthen further as the energy sector stabilizes following a big plunge. Part of the optimism stems from a view that the plunge in energy investment, fueled by the sharp fall in energy prices, is coming to an end. The count of oil drilling rigs is up 49 percent from the low hit in May.

Manufacturing has also been hurt this year by a

strong dollar, which makes U.S. goods less competitive in overseas markets. The economy, as measured by the gross domestic product, grew at a 2.9 percent rate in the third quarter, a significant improvement after growth averaged just 1.1 percent in the first half of the year.

In October, orders for machinery edged up a slight 0.2 percent, while demand for primary metals such as steel fell 0.1 percent. □

Neo-Nazi killer jailed for life for slaying lawmaker Jo Cox

JILL LAWLESS

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A white supremacist who shot and stabbed a pro-European U.K. lawmaker while shouting "Britain first" was sentenced to life in prison Wednesday for a crime prosecutors called an act of far-right terrorism.

Jurors at London's Central

Criminal Court deliberated for less than two hours before unanimously finding 53-year-old Thomas Mair guilty of murdering Labour Party legislator Jo Cox. Mair fired three shots at 41-year-old Cox with a sawn-off .22 rifle and stabbed her 15 times with a 7-inch (17-cm) dagger outside a library in the area she represented in

northern England on June 16. The murder, a week before Britain's referendum on European Union membership, shocked the country. Cox was the first British lawmaker killed in office in a quarter of a century. Mair did not visibly react as he was convicted of murdering Cox and wounding 77-year-old Bernard Ken-

ny, a passer-by who was stabbed as he tried to stop the attack in Birstall, 200 miles (320 kilometers) north of London. Judge Alan Wilkie sentenced Mair to life with no chance of parole for the "brutal and ruthless" killing. The judge said the murder had been carried out to advance a political cause "of

violent white supremacism associated with Nazism." Cox had been a prominent voice arguing for Britain to remain in the EU, during a divisive and often angry referendum campaign that focused heavily on the issue of immigration. She had also urged Britain to take in more refugees fleeing violence in Syria. □

Security upped at Paris police HQ as attack plot clues mount

ELAINE GANLEY

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Police upped security at the headquarters of France's criminal investigations police Wednesday as investigators who were questioning five suspects in an alleged terror plot sought to identify their potential targets from a seized mobile telephone, officials said.

A police official confirmed that security was reinforced at the imposing judicial police headquarters on the Seine River, known by its address, 36 Quai des Orfèvres. The building reportedly showed up, along with others, in searches performed on a telephone belonging to one of the suspects.

Investigators are concentrating on uncovering clues to what authorities say was a thwarted effort to launch another attack in France, two officials with knowledge of the case said. The suspects must be issued preliminary charges on Thursday or released. Two suspects — one of them a school employee — apparently traveled briefly to Syria, the two of



A riot police officer stands guard near the Bataclan concert hall in Paris. Police upped security at the headquarters of France's criminal investigations police Wednesday as investigators who were questioning five suspects in an alleged terror plot sought to identify their potential targets from a seized mobile telephone, officials said.

(AP Photo/Kamil Zihnioglu)

ficials said, increasing suspicion of a link to Islamic extremists. The officials were not authorized to discuss the case and spoke on condition of anonymity. Seven people originally were arrested early Sunday in Strasbourg, in eastern France, and in Marseille, in the south, but two of them

have been released. A telephone belonging to one of four men arrested in Strasbourg and possibly computers seized in the investigation have revealed the devices were used to search for locations, including for an amusement park, that might have been potential attack targets, the

officials said. They cautioned that the numerous searches did not necessarily amount to lists of potential sites. However, French television station BFM TV and RTL radio said other sites researched included arched out were the General Directorate for Internal Security — the

French interior intelligence service — and the judicial police headquarters.

The information could not be independently confirmed.

Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said Monday the arrests culminated a more than eight-month investigation that he said thwarted a "terrorist action envisaged for a long time on our soil." A series of arrests in June and the arrests this past Sunday put an end to the plot, Cazeneuve said.

The June arrests involved people behind financing the alleged attack plot, while the Sunday arrests targeted the operational team, but both groups were under orders from unidentified commanders in Syria, one of the two officials said earlier this week. Four weapons were seized in the Strasbourg raids and there were indications the suspects were seeking more, the official said on Wednesday.

The suspects are believed to have initially wanted to target the Euro 2016 European soccer tournament earlier this year. □

The politically charged prosecution centers on comments Wilders made before and after the Dutch municipal elections in 2014. At one meeting in a Hague cafe, he asked supporters whether they wanted more or fewer Moroccans in the Netherlands. That sparked a chant of "Fewer! Fewer! Fewer!" — to which he replied "we'll take care of it." □

Dutch populist lawmaker Wilders slams his trial as 'charade'

MIKE CORDER

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Populist anti-Islam lawmaker Geert Wilders delivered a fiery closing statement Wednesday at his hate speech trial, slamming his prosecution as a "charade, a disgrace for the Netherlands, a mockery for our society" that threatens freedom of speech. Wilders, whose party is rid-

ing high in Dutch opinion polls, told a three-judge panel sitting in a heavily guarded courtroom on the outskirts of Amsterdam that, as an elected lawmaker, he must be able to talk about the "mega-Moroccan problem" in the Netherlands and would not be muzzled by what he branded a political trial. In an address that sounded as much like a campaign

speech ahead of Dutch Parliamentary elections due in March as a legal defense, Wilders cast himself as part of a swelling global anti-establishment movement that already has manifested itself in the British vote to leave the European Union and Donald Trump's victory in the U.S. presidential election. "Worldwide, a movement has started that is making

short shrift of the politically correct doctrines of the elite and their subordinate media," Wilders said. "Brexit proved it. The American election proved it." And, turning to upcoming elections and votes across Europe, he added that, "It is about to be proven in Austria and Italy. Next year it will also be proven in France, Germany and, yes, also in the Netherlands."

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Scenes of panic as hundreds of Iraqis flee Mosul

BRIAN ROHAN

QASSIM ZAHRA

Associated Press

MOSUL, Iraq (AP) — They came by the hundreds — men, women and children fleeing the battle for Mosul, some bloodied and crying out for help. So large was the crowd on the road that Iraqi troops initially ordered them back, worried that an Islamic State suicide bomber could be hiding among them. Mosul's residents are fleeing in growing numbers as Iraqi forces push deeper into the country's second largest city, and the battle-hardened extremists are fighting for every block, exploiting the dense urban terrain and using civilians as human shields.

On Wednesday the tide of displaced people reached the Samah district, where Iraqi medics treated dozens of wounded, including at least six soldiers.

At one point, four children and a man from the same family were rushed into the station, bleeding heavily as their relatives wailed in grief. A mortar round had slammed into the inner courtyard of their home.



Iraqi special forces soldiers stand guard over an alleged Islamic State group collaborator, inside a house in the Al-Samah front line neighborhood, in Mosul, Iraq, Wednesday, Nov. 23, 2016. An airstrike by the U.S.-led coalition on Wednesday "disabled" the fourth bridge on the Tigris River in Mosul, leaving the northern Iraqi city with a single functioning bridge, according to the Iraqi military and the Islamic State's media arm.

A few minutes after being brought to the aid station, a 16-month-old girl with a head wound was pronounced dead.

One of the men raised his shirt to show that he wasn't armed, saying he was des-

perate for food. Mosul, which fell to IS in the summer of 2014, is still home to more than 1 million people. Fearing a mass exodus, authorities have urged residents to stay inside their homes. But the presence of

(AP Photo/Hussein Malla)

civilians has prevented the U.S.-backed Iraqi forces from using overwhelming force, slowing their advance and prolonging the city's agony.

The U.N. says at least 68,000 people have fled the fight-

ing in Mosul, including 8,300 over the past four days.

Black Humvees carried wounded soldiers back from the front. The body of a special forces soldier killed in combat was wrapped in a blanket on the hood of a vehicle. The Iraqi military does not release official casualty figures, but field medics say dozens of troops have been killed and wounded since the Mosul operation began last month.

A pre-dawn airstrike by the U.S.-led coalition struck a bridge across the Tigris River, which divides the city in two, leaving only one crossing intact and disrupting IS supply lines. It was the second bridge to be struck this week, and two other bridges were destroyed by airstrikes last month.

Until now, most of the fighting has been on the eastern bank of the Tigris. Iraqi forces are expected to use pontoon bridges when they reach the river.

IS still regularly targets the capital despite suffering a series of battlefield losses elsewhere in the country over the past year. □

Turkey-backed and Kurdish-led forces clash in northern Syria

BEIRUT (AP) — Turkish-backed Syrian opposition forces clashed with Kurdish-led forces on Wednesday in northern Syria, where both are fighting the Islamic State group.

The press office for the Kurdish-held parts of Syria said eight civilians were killed in shelling by Turkish-backed forces in the countryside between Manbij, a town controlled by Kurdish-affiliated forces, and the IS-held town of al-Bab. The

Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said two civilians were killed in the clashes, which were still underway.

The Turkey-backed forces have converged on al-Bab in recent days. On Wednesday, the Kurdish-affiliated forces entered the IS-held town of Arima, near al-Bab. Turkey has called on the Kurds to leave Manbij and withdraw to the east.

Turkish warplanes meanwhile targeted IS in north-

ern Syria, Turkey's state-run Anadolu News Agency said. Quoting unnamed military officials, it said the raids destroyed two buildings, an ammunition depot and four defensive positions around al-Bab.

In Cairo, meanwhile, Egypt's President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi expressed support for Syrian President Bashar Assad's military, in remarks that are likely to anger Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries, which

back Syria's armed rebellion.

Egypt angered Saudi Arabia, its top financial backer, last month when it backed a draft resolution on Syria at the U.N. Security Council that was opposed by Riyadh. The kingdom has since suspended fuel shipments to Egypt.

In Germany, Chancellor Angela Merkel condemned deliberate attacks on hospitals in Syria, and said it's "very regrettable" that Rus-

sia is supporting Assad.

"There are too many indications that hospitals and medical facilities are deliberately being bombed," she said in a speech to the German parliament, adding that it "has to be pursued under criminal law."

Assad's government has also received crucial support from Iran, where an official was quoted as saying that more than 1,000 Iranians have been killed in combat in Syria. □

Samsung, pension fund raided as South Korean probe widens



Employees walk past logos of Samsung Group at its headquarters in Seoul, South Korea, Wednesday, Nov. 23, 2016. South Korean prosecutors investigating a corruption scandal surrounding the country's president and her friend raided on Wednesday a unit of the country's largest business group, Samsung, and the national pension fund, as public outrage grows over Samsung's alleged link with the scandal.

YOUKYUNG LEE
AP Business Writer

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korean prosecutors investigating a corruption scandal surrounding the country's president and her friend raided a unit of the country's largest business group, Samsung, and the national pension fund on Wednesday, as public outrage grows over Samsung's alleged link to the scandal. An official at the Seoul Central District Prosecu-

tors' Office said investigators seized documents, computer hard drives and other materials at Samsung Group's corporate strategy office in Seoul and at the National Pension Service's offices in Seoul and its headquarters in Jeonju. The official declined to be named, citing office policies. The targets of the raids included the NPS' Investment Management Office, according to an NPS official who also declined to

(Jang Se-young/Newsis via AP)

be named. Samsung spokeswoman Lim Bomi confirmed that investigators raided the company but declined to comment further. The raids took place as the political fallout from the scandal continued to grow after prosecutors charged Choi Soon-sil, President Park Geun-hye's long-time friend, and two presidential aides on suspicion of interfering with state affairs and bullying companies, includ-

ing Samsung, into giving tens of millions of dollars to foundations and businesses Choi controlled.

The presidential office said Wednesday that two other officials, the justice minister and senior presidential secretary for civil affairs, had offered to resign. The resignation offers, if approved, could deal a further blow to Park, who has already been forced to fire eight presidential advisers since the scandal exploded. Park has refused to meet prosecutors who said she conspired in criminal activities with the confidante.

While Park faces mounting calls to resign over the scandal, public anger toward Samsung has also been simmering because of its alleged links with Choi. It is not the first time Samsung has been raided by prosecutors investigating the scandal. Top Samsung executives, including Samsung chairman's son Lee Jae-yong, were questioned by prosecutors earlier this month, along with other top South Korean business executives. Other Samsung companies have been raided during the probe. But the fact that the target of the latest raid was Samsung Group's corporate strategy office indicates that Samsung might be deeply involved in the

scandal. Samsung established the office in December 2010 to support affiliates and help improve synergies among various Samsung companies. But in reality the unit, headed by Lee's mentor, served as a control tower that oversees key corporate decisions. South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported earlier that prosecutors were looking into whether the presidential office played a role in the pension service's vote to support the controversial merger of two Samsung companies last year. Samsung narrowly won shareholders' approval to merge Samsung C&T and Cheil Industries in July 2015. Most investors and analysts questioned Samsung's argument that the deal would create synergies between a Samsung construction company and another Samsung company that ran an amusement park and fashion businesses.

The merger deal was crucial for Lee, the Samsung heir, who held a small stake in Samsung Electronics. It helped Lee, a grandson of Samsung's founder and a vice chairman at Samsung Electronics, strengthen his grip on Samsung Electronics, the group's crown jewel, without spending his own money. □

Tensions soar as Indian fire hits bus in Kashmir, killing 10

ROSHAN MUGHAL
ASIF SHAHZAD

Associated Press

MUZAFFARABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Indian troops fired on a Pakistani passenger bus in Kashmir on Wednesday, killing 10 civilians in one of the deadliest incidents in weeks of violence in the disputed Himalayan region, stoking tensions between the nuclear-armed rivals.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif called the shelling "naked aggression," and the government summoned an Indian diplomat to lodge a protest. The Pakistani army contacted its Indian counterpart over a crisis hotline, saying "we reserve the right to respond at the place and time of our choosing."

The Indian military said in a statement that Lt. Gen.

Ranbir Shah had spoken to his Pakistani counterpart and expressed "grief" over the civilian casualties. But he insisted that India's "retaliatory" fire had only been directed at locations where Pakistan had fired first.

Kashmir is split between Indian and Pakistani areas of control and claimed in its entirety by both countries. The South Asian rivals

fought two of their three wars over Kashmir, and it remains one of the world's most intractable conflicts. Waheed Khan, a Pakistani police official in the region, said the Indian shelling also hit villages near the Line of

At least three Pakistani soldiers were also killed, the military said, adding that Indian troops had fired on an ambulance.

The latest exchange of fire

came a day after the mutilated body of an Indian soldier was found in Kashmir. The Indian military did not say whether the soldier was killed by Pakistani soldiers or Kashmiri rebels, who have been fighting against Indian rule since 1989.

"Retribution will be heavy for this cowardly act," Col. Rajesh Kalia, an Indian army spokesman, said after Tuesday's attack. □

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Student school takeovers could be trouble for Brazil reforms

PETER PRENGAMAN
SARAH DiLORENZO

Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) —

The teachers are gone. The administrators as well. Students have seized control here and at hundreds of other schools across Brazil in a widespread rebellion against government budget cuts.

The takeovers began in early October and have spread to at least 19 states, a wave of youth resistance to the austerity policies of new President Michel Temer, who faces the gargantuan task of pulling Latin America's largest economy out of deep recession while reining in the deficit. At the Colegio Pedro II - Humaita II high school in Rio de Janeiro, about 50 students sleep on the campus each night, and 100 more join them each day for self-organized yoga and dance classes, lectures and plays.

On a recent day, a guest lecturer taught them about gravitational pull. Other students milled about in the hallways or gathered in the cafeteria to peel potatoes for lunch.

The students have even set up their own library, a table jammed with Portuguese translations of the Harry Potter books and Gabriel Garcia Marquez's "One Hundred Years of Solitude." The targets of their protest are Temer's efforts to reform the education system and impose a federal spending cap to slash the country's chronic budget deficits, which they fear will mean sharp cuts in school spending.

"Public education is already so bad," said Julia Couto, 16, who wants to study literature in college. "How can the government reduce spending on it?"

Temer insists that's not his intent, saying any cuts would be made elsewhere. He has criticized the students,

very big test for the Temer government," said Monica de Bolle, a senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics.

the president of the assembly threatening to cut off her microphone have mushroomed across social

ply don't meet the challenges and realities of our country."

The Senate is expected to approve the spending cap on Nov. 29 and send it to the lower chamber of Congress. Students are promising protests in the capital that day.

Leandro Beguoci, the editor-in-chief of the education magazine Nova Escola, said the students already have accomplished much. "For the first time in my life, I see education as a central part of the Brazilian national debate," he said. That appears to be part of a wider engagement with politics in Brazil, according to de Bolle, who is also a professor at Johns Hopkins' School of Advanced International Studies.

The removal from office of President Dilma Rousseff and a spiraling government corruption scandal have combined to "make the level of scrutiny of anything that this government does much greater than would have been the case, say, five years ago even," she said.

The education and spending bills were expected to be easy wins for Temer, who was vice president and took over for Rousseff. The backlash means he's likely to struggle to pass the more difficult elements of his agenda, such as social security reforms that are likely to meet stiff opposition from unions. □



High school student Ana Julia Pires Ribeiro, center, talks with students at the Colegio Pedro II school after the student body seized the institution to protest education reform and austerity measures in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Ribeiro became one of the faces of the occupy high school movement after she addressed her state legislature in Parana last month and accused legislators of abdicating their responsibility to young people, where lawmakers shouted her down and the president of the assembly threatened to cut off her microphone.

(AP Photo/Leo Correa)

saying their tactics amount to "throwing an old tire in the road to stop traffic." The education bill would make optional subjects that had previously been required, like arts and physical education. It would also lengthen the school day, which students say won't address the quality of what happens in the classroom. The growing involvement of a sector of the population that rarely engages in politics is presenting a "a

ternational Economics. The Brazilian Union of Secondary School Students says that about 1,000 schools have participated in the occupations.

One face of the movement is that of Ana Julia Pires Ribeiro, a 16-year-old who addressed her state legislature in Parana last month and accused legislators of abdicating their responsibility to young people.

Video images of lawmakers shouting her down and

media in Brazil.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Ribeiro said that whether students succeed in getting the legislation scrapped is secondary. Instead, she said a level of consciousness had been developed that will be important for future fights with lawmakers.

"If you don't push, you will never get anything," said Ribeiro. "Our schools are very overcrowded, they are in bad shape. They sim-

Resort city of Cancun rounds up dozens of Uber cars

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Officials in the Mexican resort of Cancun and nearby cities have rounded up scores of Uber cars and taken them to impound lots until drivers pay fines of about \$2,800 apiece.

The government of the Caribbean coast state of Quintana Roo says the ride-sharing service is illegally offering transport services. Uber says about 100 of its drivers' vehicles had been impounded in the last week

and 96 of them were carrying Cancun residents, not tourists. Uber says the fines are exorbitant and alleges there had been "threats and violence against drivers, customers and tourists." State transportation secre-

tary Jorge Portilla says Uber violated a state law prohibiting unlicensed transport services, and that Uber knew about the law beforehand. Portilla says Uber has affected the incomes of registered taxi drivers. □



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Restaurant at the Fisherman's Pier - Aruba

Report: Jamaica fosters culture of fear with police impunity



In this 2014 photo, Shackelia Jackson-Thomas holds up a business card decorated with a photo of her late brother Nakiea Jackson who was fatally shot by police outside of his small restaurant, in Kingston, Jamaica. Jackson-Thomas' brother is one of over 2,000 citizens killed by police in the last decade. Rights groups long accused the government of fostering a culture of impunity by protecting law enforcers accused of killing suspects.

(AP Photo/David McFadden)

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — Jamaica fosters a "culture of fear" and impunity linked to a high rate of killings by police officers that stretches back for years on the Caribbean island with chronically eye-popping rates of violent crime, Amnesty International alleges in a report issued Wednesday.

The London-based group said just two Jamaican offi-

cers have been convicted of murder since 2000 while roughly 3,000 citizens were killed in police-related fatalities during that time. It's been such a longstanding pattern of killings that Amnesty suggests there could be state-sponsored executions in the gritty slums where the deadly shootings generally take place. "Information gathered for this report points to a strong

likelihood of the existence of individual police officers or even units tasked with carrying out extrajudicial executions on the orders of some governmental authorities or with its complicity or acquiescence," the report said.

Local rights activists have made the same allegations for years and residents of poor neighborhoods routinely protest what they

insist are unjustified killings by lawmen, accusing them of planting pistols next to dead bodies and letting wounded victims bleed to death. Almost all of those killed have been written off by police as armed criminals who died in shoot-outs.

Prime Minister Andrew Holness, whose Jamaica Labor Party won February national elections, met with Amnesty officials in Jamaica's capital of Kingston and received a copy of the report. He said his administration was committed to ensuring human rights of all islanders.

"We reject violence. The government is of the view that the state should set the example and not use violence as a means of conflict resolution," he said in a Wednesday statement.

The Jamaica Constabulary Force didn't respond to emails or calls seeking comment about Amnesty's report. But senior police commanders have long dismissed accusations of unlawful killings and crime scene manipulation as wildly exaggerated, noting Jamaica is awash with illegal guns and violent gangs. There's no shortage of Jamaicans who support tough police tactics on an island with a paltry conviction rate for homicides.

Last year, the country of

less than 3 million people had at least 1,192 slayings, a roughly 20 percent increase from the previous year. That's some 43 slayings per 100,000 people, keeping Jamaica ranked among the most violent countries in the world. In recent years, the UN listed the island as having the world's sixth-worst homicide rate. The World Bank ranked Jamaica in the top five in 2013.

In its new report, Amnesty also accused police of illegal "intimidation and harassment" against relatives of citizens slain by lawmen, particularly women.

Interviews with over 50 relatives of 28 people believed to be unlawfully killed by police showed that "most had experienced intense and pervasive harassment and intimidation by police in their pursuit of justice," including threats at home, workplaces, and even during funerals, the report said.

"Shocking injustice is the norm," said Erika Guevara-Rosas, Amnesty's Americas director.

In recent years, the number of police killings in Jamaica has actually decreased significantly, Amnesty notes in its report.

But there's still an average of two killings by police a week and Amnesty researchers said they found "no evidence of improved internal accountability within the police or changes in the way the police operate."

There seems to be a mix of reasons for the reduction in police-involved killings since 2014, but perhaps the biggest is the fear among officers of prosecution by an independent agency that now investigates abuse allegations against police. There's also a Special Coroner's Court to conduct inquests into alleged police killings. □

7 bodies found in Mexico clandestine grave

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Soldiers and police found an outlaw camp in southern Mexico where a kidnap victim was rescued, body parts were found in a cooler and seven bodies were extracted from clandestine burial pits.

The grisly find was made Tuesday in a part of southern Guerrero state where rival drug gangs have

been engaged in a wave of extortion, kidnappings and turf battles.

Roberto Alvarez, the Guerrero state security spokesman said a joint-army police patrol received a tip that people were being held at a rural encampment near a mountain in Zitlala, near the violence-plagued town of Chilapa. The patrol went to investi-

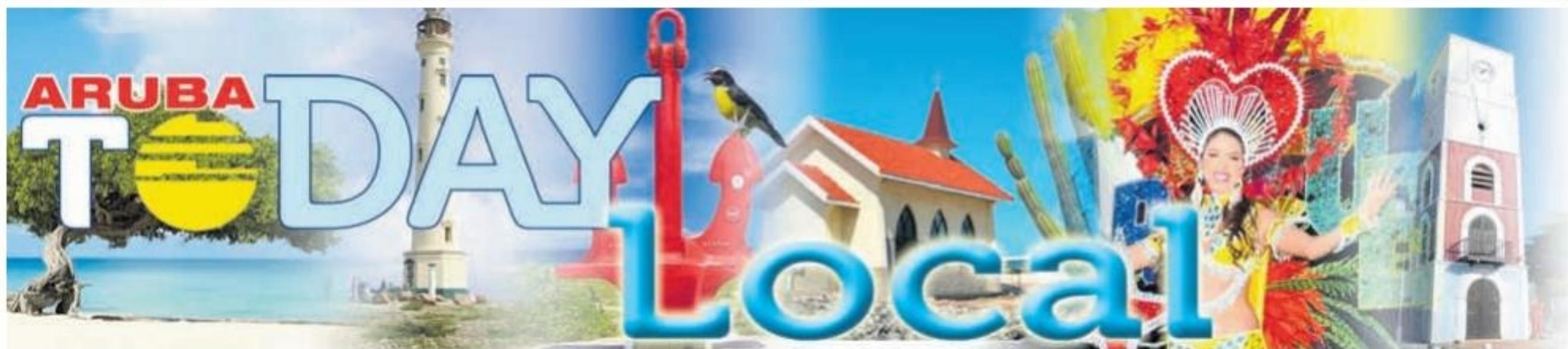
tigate, found the camp and freed a kidnapped man. They found no suspects, but did find gun magazines, vehicles and the cooler with human remains.

Drug gangs frequently decapitate their victims and put their heads in coolers. Army troops cordoned off the area and investigators were working to identify

the bodies.

Survivors have testified in the past that criminal gangs in Guerrero sometimes operate rural camps where they hold, torture and kill kidnap victims.

And on Wednesday, state prosecutors said the body of another man was found buried in a clandestine grave near Guerrero's Pacific coast. □



Emerald Ambassadors Honored at the Aruba Beach Club!

EAGLE BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice couple whom are loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba, as Emerald Ambassadors at the Aruba Beach Club. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 35-or-more consecutive years.

The honorees were Mr. Rudy and Mrs. Carolyn Koczera from New Hampshire, visiting Aruba for their 35th consecutive year!

Rudy and Carolyn are loyal members of the Aruba Beach Club and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the climate, the beaches, the restaurants, and for just about everything else!

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The Emerald Ambassador certificate and commemorative Emerald Ambassa-



dor coin were presented by Ms. Marouska Heyliger representing the Aruba

Tourism Authority together with associates from the Aruba Beach Club! □

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EAGLE BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice couple whom are loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba as Goodwill Ambassadors at La Cabana Beach Resort. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20-to-34 consecutive years.

The honorees were Mr. Gerald and Mrs. Irene Brink from Pennsylvania, visiting Aruba for their 22nd consecutive year!

Gerald and Irene are loyal members of La Cabana Beach Resort and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the climate, the beaches, the safety and the restaurants, and they say they would not trade their vacation 'home-away-from-home' of Aruba for any other destination!

The certificates were presented by Ms. Marouska Heyliger representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with associates from La Cabana Beach Resort. □

Tonight!**The Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino Hosts a Family-Style Thanksgiving Dinner**

PALM BEACH – The culinary team of the newly renovated resort is preparing a veritable Thanksgiving feast, to be held at the Grand Caribbean Ballroom from 5pm to 8pm on Thursday, November 24th, 2016, Thanksgiving Day.

The dinner buffet will be served in a casual family-atmosphere, with plentiful and tasty offerings, all equally fresh and tempting!

On the menu a Harvest Salad Station, and Pumpkin Soup, Roasted Whole Tom Turkey with Traditional Stuffing, Giblet Gravy, and Cranberry Sauce, Carved to order Beef Tenderloin, Grouper and Salmon Roulade, Carved Virginia Ham,



Pasta tossed to order, and for dessert Pumpkin Pie and Apple Pie.

The newly renovated Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino wishes guests a Happy Thanksgiving, as it now boasts an entirely new look, reflecting on the property's rich history, interwoven with modern beach esthetic for today's discerning traveler.

The new resort design respectfully salutes the original building's architect, Morris Lapidus, who shaped much of what is now considered iconic hotel design.

The concept for the renovation, did not deviate from the original vision, but rather augmented it – featuring a modern beach-

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Buccaneer was established in 1980 and is a family run restaurant serving locals and tourists for over 36 years. The Buccaneer is one of Aruba's oldest restaurants, serving seafood, steaks and an array of In-



ternational cuisine with an extensive menu to offer a fabulous dining experience. New Executive Chef James W. Rogan who has worked in many places like San Diego, Los Angeles, Utah, Seattle and St. Thomas is now the General Manager/Executive Chef of the Buccaneer Restaurant. "We have exciting new dishes," says Chef James, "along with the local favorites and a special 3 Course Menu for Thanksgiving and all though the month of November and we fea-



ture great spirits!" At the Buccaneer Restaurant, a variety of delicious entrees, reasonable low prices and great service in a relaxing atmosphere come together for a truly unforgettable dining experience. "We take pride in serving

fresh ingredients everyday from our kitchen to your table!" Opening Hours are Monday to Saturday from 5:30pm to 10:00pm (closed on Sundays). For reservations, call (+297) 586-6172, or visit buccaneeraruba.com. □



Loyal Guests Honored at the Playa Linda Beach Resort

PALM BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice couple whom are loyal and friendly Visitors of Aruba, as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba, at the Playa Linda Beach Resort. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 consecutive years.

The honorees were Mr. Michael and Mrs. Mary Goehring from Bristol, Connecticut.

The Goehrings got married in Aruba, and they have loved the island ever since. They tell us they keep coming back because of the people, the weather, the beaches, the restaurants, and because Aruba feels like a second home where the people are like family to them. The certificate was presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Ms. Pauline Dijo, Guest Relations & Hospitality Manager of the Playa Linda Beach Resort. □



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This is a Sept. 2, 1956, file photo showing Brooklyn Dodgers pitcher Ralph Branca.

Associated Press

Branca, pitcher who gave up 'Shot Heard 'Round World,' dies

BEN WALKER

AP Baseball Writer

Ralph Branca, the Brooklyn Dodgers pitcher who gave up the famed "Shot Heard 'Round the World" that still echoes six decades later as one of the most famous home runs in baseball history, died Wednesday. He was 90.

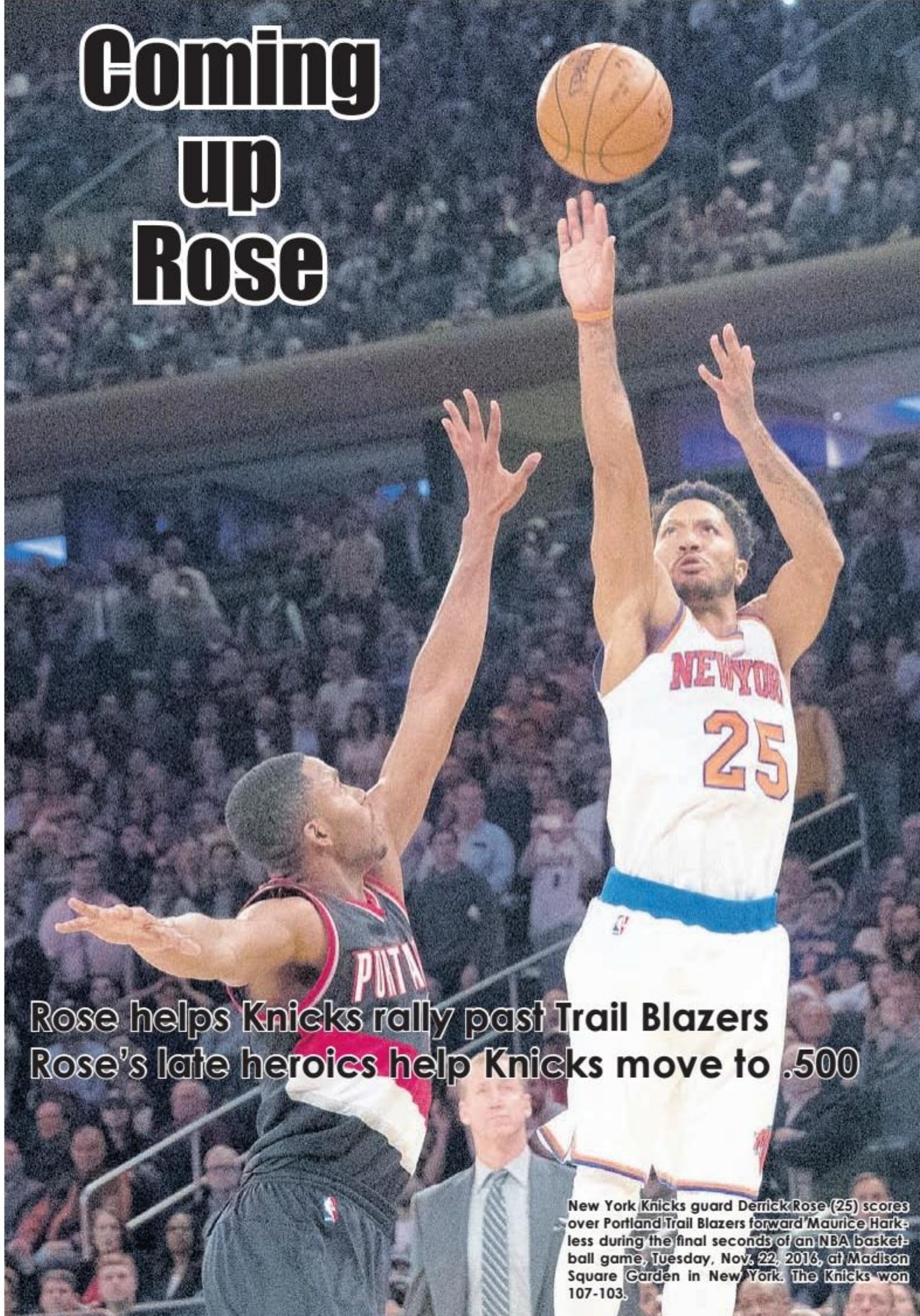
His son-in-law, former big league manager Bobby Valentine, said Branca died at a nursing home in Rye, New York.

Branca was a three-time All-Star and spent 12 seasons in the majors, but he will always be known for just one pitch.

Brought in from the bullpen in the bottom of the ninth inning during the deciding Game 3 of the National League playoff in 1951, he gave up a three-run homer to Bobby Thomson that gave the rival New York Giants a stunning 5-4 victory. The line drive into the lower deck at the Polo Grounds prompted the frenetic call, "The Giants win the pennant! The Giants win the pennant!"

Continued on page 21

Coming up Rose



**Rose helps Knicks rally past Trail Blazers
Rose's late heroics help Knicks move to .500**

New York Knicks guard Derrick Rose (25) scores over Portland Trail Blazers forward Maurice Harkless during the final seconds of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2016, at Madison Square Garden in New York. The Knicks won 107-103.

Cowboys, Redskins both rolling for Thanksgiving showdown

The Associated Press

Rookie quarterback Dak Prescott has been so good for the Dallas Cowboys that Tony Romo hasn't get his job back since his recovery from a preseason back injury.

Dallas, with an NFL-best 9-1 win-loss record, is looking for its first 10-game winning streak in the same regular season from its matchup with the Redskins on Thanksgiving Thursday. The run started with Prescott's first career victory at Washington in Week 2. Prescott led a fourth-quarter comeback in that 27-23 win after fellow rookie sensation Ezekiel Elliott was benched because of two fumbles.

Now Prescott is the leading rookie passer in the NFL, and Elliott is the league's top rusher at 1,102 yards.

Redskins coach Jay Gruden said of Elliott: "He's been bottled up from time to time in the first quarter, but as the game goes on, that offensive line can wear you down and he gets chunks of yardage. And Dak has just been very poised under pressure."



Dallas Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott (4) leaps but falls shy of the end zone after being tripped up by Baltimore Ravens' Zach Orr in the first half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Nov. 20, 2016, in Arlington, Texas.

Associated Press

Elliott hasn't had fewer than 92 yards since getting 83 before the benching at Washington.

Also on Thursday, Detroit hosts Minnesota, and Indianapolis welcomes Pittsburgh.

Kirk Cousins and the Redskins are trying to keep up with the Cowboys in the surprisingly strong NFC East. Their 42-24 win over Green Bay last weekend was their sixth in eight games since starting 0-2.

The Lions have been playing on Thanksgiving since 1934, and this is their most significant match on the holiday in decades. They and the Vikings are tied for first in the NFC North. It will be the first time the Lions are in first place on the holiday since 1993, which is also the most recent year the franchise won a division title.

"I love it," Lions cornerback Darius Slay said. "We know the risks, and the stakes." If the Lions beat Minnesota for the second time this month and sweep the season series, they would win the head-to-head tiebreaker if both teams

are tied at the end of the regular season.

If the Vikings win, they will move into first place with a favorable schedule that includes only one team that currently has a winning record.

The Colts have won two in a row, but the most recent victory was costly, particularly with the four-day turnaround for their game with the Steelers. Quarterback Andrew Luck has been ruled out because of concussion.

The backup quarterback is Scott Tolzien, who is in his fourth NFL season, thrown 91 passes (all with Green Bay when Aaron Rodgers was hurt), and has not taken a snap this season.

The Steelers are no powerhouse, especially on defense, but they should have more than enough talent for the Luck-less Colts. □

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NBA Capsules

Porzingis, Rose help Knicks rally past Trail Blazers 107-103

NEW YORK (AP) — Kristaps Porzingis had 31 points and nine rebounds, Derrick Rose scored six of his 18 points down the stretch, and the New York Knicks beat the Portland Trail Blazers 107-103 on Tuesday night.

Rose made the go-ahead basket with a little more than 3 minutes remaining and hit the jumper that clinched it with 6.8 seconds left.

Carmelo Anthony finished with 17 points despite a scoreless fourth quarter for the Knicks, who won their fifth straight at home. Brandon Jennings had 11 assists off the bench.

Damian Lillard scored 22 points for the Trail Blazers but fell to 4-1 at Madison Square Garden. CJ McCollum added 16 points.

NUGGETS 110, BULLS 107

DENVER (AP) — Rookie Jamal Murray scored a season-high 24 points, Will Barton hit two free throws with 9.5 seconds left and the Nuggets beat the Bulls. It was Denver's 10th straight home win over the Bulls and its 16th in the last 17 meetings at Pepsi Center.

Butler had 35 points and eight rebounds for Chicago, which last won in Denver on Feb. 8, 2006. Dwyane Wade had 22 points after sitting out Sunday's game against the Lakers.

The Nuggets used a 22-0 run at the start of the second quarter to take a 41-31 lead. Murray had 15 of his 17 first half points in the period and Wilson Chandler scored 12 of his 16 in the second quarter. The game was tied when Barton was fouled on a drive to the basket, and he hit two free throws left to give Denver a 109-107 lead. Isaiah Cannon shot an airball on a 3-point attempt and the Nuggets got the ball.

PELICANS 112, HAWKS 94

ATLANTA (AP) — Tim Frazier had 21 points and 14 assists, Terrence Jones added 17 points and the Pelicans won their third straight game with a victory over the Hawks.

Pelicans forward Anthony Davis returned to begin the fourth quarter after bruising his right knee and missing the second and third periods. Davis, a three-

time All-Star and the NBA's leading scorer, finished with 13 points.

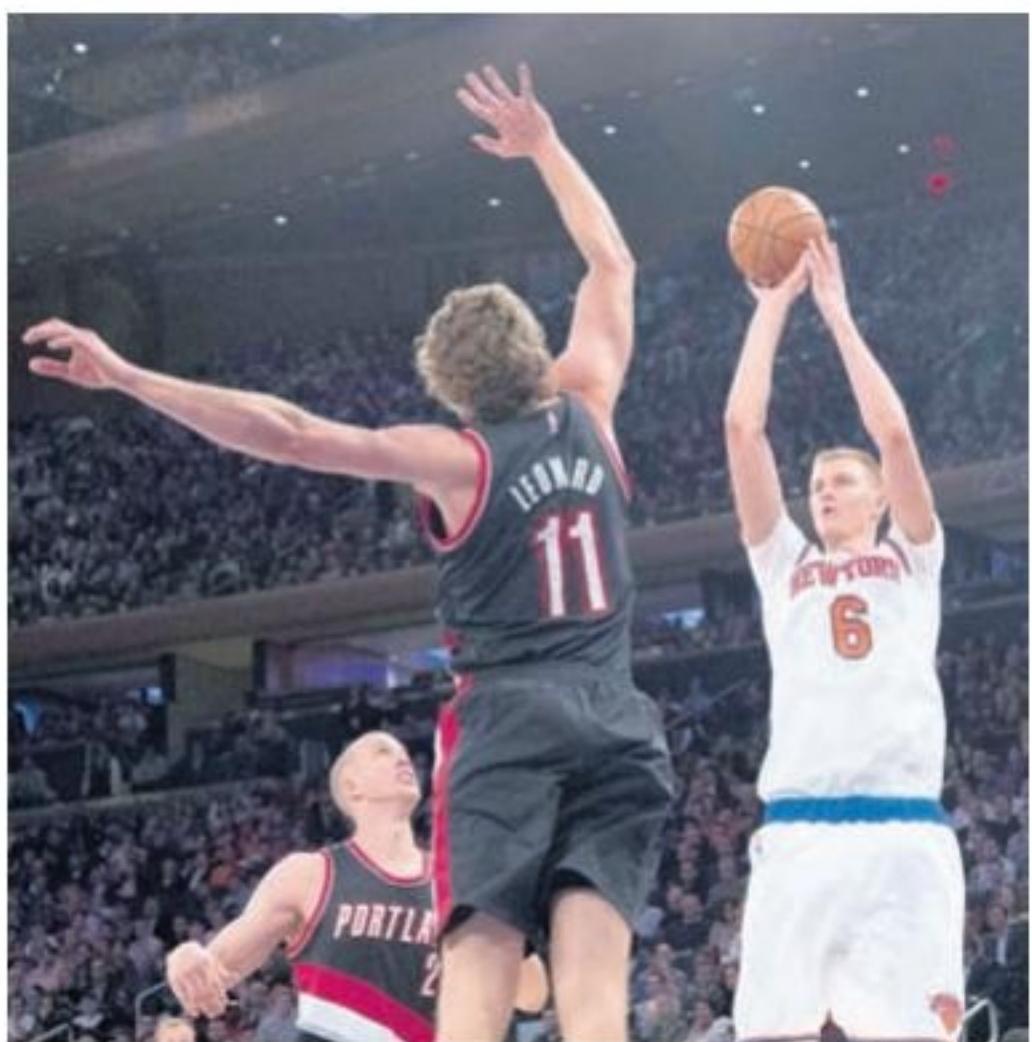
New Orleans led by 20 at the end of the first quarter and never let up.

Dennis Schroder and Kyle Korver each scored 14 for the Hawks, who have lost three in a row. Atlanta was tied for the Eastern Conference lead last week but now begins a five-game road trip playing its worst basketball of the young season.

The Pelicans have won five of seven and are 3-0 since Jrue Holiday returned after missing the first 12 games to be with his sick wife.

LAKERS 111, THUNDER 109

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Nick Young hit a go-ahead 3-pointer with 5 seconds to play, and the Los Angeles Lakers blew a 14-point lead in the final minutes before rallying for a 111-109 victory over the Oklahoma City



New York Knicks forward Kristaps Porzingis (6) shoots over Portland Trail Blazers forward Meyers Leonard (11) and center Mason Plumlee during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2016, at Madison Square Garden in New York. The Knicks won 107-103.

Associated Press

Thunder on Tuesday night. Young finished with 17 points and Jordan Clarkson had 18 for the Lakers, who survived a monster performance by Russell Westbrook in the final minutes.

After Westbrook scored 17 points in a five-minute span to trim the Lakers' big lead to one point,

Steven Adams scored on a go-ahead putback of Westbrook's miss with 13.9 seconds to play.

The Lakers then passed the ball around the perimeter before Young coolly drained his fourth 3-pointer of the night.

Westbrook missed a long shot shortly before the buzzer. □

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St. Louis Blues left wing David Perron (57) and defenseman Alex Pietrangelo, right, celebrate with goalie Jake Allen (34) after their 4-2 victory over the Boston Bruins in an NHL hockey game, Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2016, in Boston.

Associated Press

NHL Capsules

St. Louis Blues pushes its winning run to four games

The Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — BOSTON (AP) — Robert Bortuzzo and Paul Stastny scored 2:12 apart in the second period and Jake Allen had 39 saves, helping the St. Louis Blues beat the Boston Bruins 4-2 on Tuesday night to extend their winning streak to four.

Jori Lehtera scored twice for St. Louis, including into an empty net with 1:16 left. Colton Parayko and Patrik Berglund each had two assists.

Longtime Blues captain David Backes scored for Boston in his first game

against his former club, putting the Bruins up 1-0 early in the first with the 20,000th goal in franchise history. Montreal is the only other NHL team with 20,000 goals.

Dominic Moore also scored for the Bruins, who lost for just the third time this season with Tuukka Rask starting in goal.

Rask had 24 saves for the Bruins, who had won four of five.

HURRICANES 2, MAPLE LEAFS 1

TORONTO (AP) — Viktor Stalberg scored a tiebreaking, short-handed goal in the second period, lifting Carolina over Toronto for its fifth straight victory.

Jeff Skinner also scored for Carolina, and Cam Ward stopped 25 shots.

Frederik Andersen made 27 saves for Toronto, which lost for only the third time in 10 games at home. Jake Gardiner had the Leafs' goal.

Stalberg got the deciding tally against his former team after Tyler Bozak's pass was picked off in the neutral zone.

Stalberg entered the zone alone, beating Andersen for his third goal of the season.

SENATORS 4, CANADIENS 3

MONTREAL (AP) — Mark Stone and Erik Karlsson scored 2:24 apart in the third period, helping Ottawa rally to beat Montreal. Stone tied it at 3 early in the third from the slot after three Canadiens players got caught behind their own net. Karlsson then scored at 5:37, the visitors' first lead of the evening, on a fluke no-look shot from the blue line after a bad giveaway by Jeff Petry. Mike Hoffman and Derick

Brassard also scored and Craig Anderson made 36 saves for Ottawa.

Shea Weber, Alexander Radulov and Alex Galchenyuk scored for Montreal.

Andrei Markov had three assists, and Carey Price stopped 19 of 23 shots.

FLYERS 3, PANTHERS 1

SUNRISE, Fla. (AP) — Steven Mason made 38 saves and Wayne Simmonds had a goal and an assist, helping Philadelphia beat Florida.

Nick Cousins and Dale Weise also scored for the Flyers, and rookie Travis Konecny and Brayden Schenn had assists.

Reilly Smith scored for the Panthers, who got 25 stops from Roberto Luongo.

The loss spoiled the return of Florida forward Nick Bjugstad, who had missed all of this season after an injury in the preseason.

ISLANDERS 3, DUCKS 2, SO ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) —

Nick Leddy scored the winner in a marathon 14-round shootout, lifting New York over Anaheim.

Thomas Greiss made 39 saves and Adam Pelech and Josh Bailey scored in regulation for the Islanders, who had been 0-4-1 on the road this season.

Each team had four goals in the shootout through 13 rounds. After Kevin Bieksa missed on a slap shot to start Round 14, Leddy waited out Jonathan Bernier before snapping in the winner.

Anaheim nearly won in the 12th when officials reviewed a tying goal by New York's Thomas Hickey, but officials determined that Hickey did not interfere with Bernier on his attempt and awarded him the tally. □



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NHL expansion team gets a name: Vegas Golden Knights

LAS VEGAS (AP)—The NHL's newest team is named the Vegas Golden Knights. Owner Bill Foley and NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman announced the Las Vegas expansion franchise's official name and revealed its logo and colors Tuesday outside T-Mobile Arena, where the Golden Knights will begin play next season.

The Golden Knights' logo is a simple front view of a fighting helmet with a conspicuous "V" in the middle.

Their colors are steel grey, gold, red and black.

"Our logo and our name is really going to exhibit

the highest element of the warrior class — the knight," Foley told the crowd. "The knight protects the unprotected."

The knight defends the realm.

The knight never gives up, never gives in, always advances, never retreats. And that is what our team is going to be."

The NHL awarded its 31st franchise in June to this gambling mecca in the Mojave Desert.

Foley is a billionaire businessman who sold the league on the potential of being the first major pro sports franchise in the growing market while

playing in a new \$375 million arena already constructed on the south end of the Strip.

Foley paid \$500 million as an expansion fee to the other 30 ownership groups, and the West Point graduate strongly considered naming his team the Black Knights in honor of his Army roots.

He changed his mind during the lengthy process of developing a brand and an identity for his team, but Foley kept a military touch in the name despite some local criticism for its lack of a connection to Las Vegas. Foley has said the team didn't want to include an

Continued from page 17

The team and its fans celebrated wildly as Thomson breezed around the bases while Branca, wearing his unlucky No. 13 jersey, trudged off the mound.

"You know," Branca told The Associated Press in 1990, "If you kill somebody, they sentence you to life, you serve 20 years and you get paroled. ... I've never been paroled."

Thomson, who also homered off Branca in Game 1, capped a sensational comeback for the Giants, who trailed the Dodgers by more than a dozen games heading toward mid-August.

For the next 50 years, Branca and Thomson often appeared together at card shows, corporate events and baseball functions, re-telling the story of the home run that grew into a sports legend. They always were friendly at the affairs, sometimes even teaming up to sing about the big moment.

"I was closer to Ralph than to any other Dodger," Dodgers broadcaster Vin Scully said in a statement. "He carried the cross of the Thomson home run with dignity and grace."

It wasn't until many years later that it was revealed that the Giants had a little extra help.

That's when it came to light that the Giants employed a telescope-and-buzzer system that season to steal signs from opposing catchers. With that advantage, Giants hitters got a boost in their swings.

And for years, the question remained: Did Thomson know the high-and-inside fastball from Branca was coming?

Thomson firmly asserted that, no, he didn't get a sign in advance. A three-time All-Star himself, Thomson stuck to that claim until he died in 2010 at age 86. Branca, however, wasn't so sure about that.

In 2001, the Giants' sign-stealing operation was detailed in a story in The Wall Street Journal.

A few days after that, Branca and Thomson saw each other for the first time at an event in Edison, New Jersey. They talked in private for five minutes, about a secret they'd both known about but never shared. Later, they spoke about their discussion.

"It's been a cleansing for

both of us," Branca said then. "He knew that I knew. It's better this way."

"To me, it was a forbidden subject," the right-hander said. "And I didn't want to demean Bobby or seem like I was a crybaby."

Said Thomson: "It was like getting something off my chest after all those years. I'm not a criminal, although I may have felt like one at first."

And then, hours later, Thomson and Branca appeared together in Manhattan at the New York baseball writers' dinner. In front of a ballroom full of fans, they took turns singing about the fateful pitch and swing, to lyrics written to the old standard "Because of You" — a reprise of the act they performed when the same dinner was held in January 1952.

His matchup with Thomson was recounted by Don DeLillo in a 1992 Harper's Magazine story "Pafko at the Wall," included five years later in the novel "Underworld."

"Yes. It is Branca coming through the dampish glow. Branca who is tall and stalwart but seems to carry his own hill and dale, he has the aura of a man encumbered. The drooping lids, clodhopper feet, the thick ridge across the brow. His face is set behind a somber nose, broad-bridged and looming."



Bill Foley, left, owner of the Las Vegas NHL franchise, speaks during an event to unveil the name of the franchise, Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2016, in Las Vegas. The team will be called the Vegas Golden Knights.

Associated Press

overt gambling reference in the name, but also considered Desert Knights and Silver Knights. □



In this June 6, 1991, file photo, former New York Giants baseball player Bobby Thomson, left, poses with former Brooklyn Dodgers pitcher Ralph Branca holding a photo showing Branca, right, and Thomson fooling around before a World Series baseball game at Yankee Stadium on Oct. 10, 1951.

Associated Press

One of the last remaining Boys of Summer, Branca was 88-68 with a 3.79 ERA in his big league career. He spent the first 11 years with the Dodgers, then played for Detroit and the Yankees before returning to Brooklyn for a final game in 1956.

Branca made his debut as a teen in 1944 and went 21-12 with 15 complete games during Jackie Robinson's first season in 1947. Branca added another win that year at Yankee Stadium in the World Series.

"Branca to me was a hero," former Dodgers manager Tommy Lasorda said in a statement. "Ralph and I became very close, my family and his family. I always enjoyed being around him. He was a tough one in every way and I really admired him."

Branca co-founded the Baseball Assistance Team,

which aids members of the baseball family in need of financial, medical or psychological assistance, and served as its president for 17 years. He was a pallbearer at Robinson's funeral in 1972.

"Ralph's participation in the 'Shot Heard 'Round the World' was eclipsed by the grace and sportsmanship he demonstrated following one of the game's signature moments," baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred said in a statement. "He is better remembered for his dedication to the members of the baseball community. He was an inspiration to so many of us."

Branca is survived by wife Ann and daughters Patti and Mary — the latter the wife of Valentine.

A funeral is scheduled for Tuesday at the Church of the Resurrection in Rye. □

FIFA president Infantino leaning toward a 48-team World Cup

ROISSY, France (AP) — After campaigning for a 40-team World Cup, FIFA President Gianni Infantino is now leaning toward an even bigger expansion to 48.

"I like 48 because it gives a particular flavor, but I'm still really torn," Infantino said Wednesday after meetings outside Paris.

Infantino said he is also warming to the introduction of video replays to prevent refereeing errors.

Initial live tests during two friendly matches this year overcame his skepticism about the technology, he said. He hopes replays will be available for the 2018 World Cup, arguing that it is "paradoxical" that television audiences and spec-

tators with mobile phones can now immediately see replays but referees can't. "It will not resolve all the questions and all the doubts that a referee can have, but that will help the referee to not commit big mistakes," Infantino said. "It's about decisions that change the game: goals, penalties, red cards."

"I really hope that in 2018 we'll really be able to help World Cup referees to not make serious mistakes."

His proposed expansion of the 2026 World Cup from the current 32-team format was among topics that Infantino discussed during his two days of meetings with officials from about 20 largely French-speaking soccer associations. The

gathering was the first of 11 such summits Infantino has scheduled through March 2017.

"Everyone wants an expansion," he said. "Some favor 40 teams, others 48."

The 40-team format that Infantino initially promised when campaigning for the FIFA presidency, which he won in February, would be mathematically clunky. The 48-team proposal would see 16 teams go home after playing just one game in a new opening playoff round.

The 16 playoff winners would then join 16 seeded teams to begin a 32-team group stage that follows the current World Cup format, which will still be used



FIFA President Gianni Infantino answers reporters after a FIFA Executives meeting in Roissy, outside Paris, Wednesday, Nov. 23, 2016.

Associated Press

in 2018 and 2022.

With 48 teams, there would be 80 matches instead of the current 64 and, Infantino argued, more sustained fervor in more parts of the world.

"Everyone sees that the increase of the participation

for the World Cup is really a tool to promote football in more countries," Infantino said.

A decision will be made on whether to expand the tournament on Jan. 9-10 when the FIFA Council meets in Zurich. □

Seattle, Montreal take narrow home wins in MLS playoffs

The Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — Seattle and Montreal both won at home by one-goal margins in Tuesday's first-leg games of Major League Soccer's conference finals, leaving the matches in the balance going into the weekend's return legs.

Seattle's Nicolas Lodeiro converted a penalty in the 61st minute to give the Sounders a 2-1 win against Colorado in the Western Conference decider, while Montreal hung on to edge Canadian rival Toronto 3-2 in the Eastern Conference. After a 16-day layoff due to the international break, the Seattle-Colorado game was expected to be a defensive struggle was instead a lively showcase that featured chances on both ends.

Kevin Doyle gave Colorado an early advantage,



Seattle Sounders forward Jordan Morris (13) sets up to score a goal on Colorado Rapids goalkeeper Zac MacMath during the first half of the first leg of the MLS soccer Western Conference championship, Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2016, in Seattle.

Associated Press

and what could prove a key away goal, when his shot in the 13th minute deflected off Seattle de-

fender Chad Marshall and past goalkeeper Stefan Frei, stunning the 42,774 in attendance.

Seattle responded almost immediately with Jordan Morris pulling the Sounders even in the 19th minute, seizing on the rebound of Cristian Roldan's shot that beat the goalkeeper but ricocheted off the post.

Lodeiro caused issues all over the field for Colorado before drawing the penalty 15 minutes into the second half. A deflected ball rolled to Lodeiro in

the penalty area and he was taken down by Marc Burch, who didn't dispute the decision. Lodeiro sent goalkeeper Zac MacMath — filling in for Tim Howard who will miss the remainder of the season with a groin injury — the wrong way and scored his fourth goal of the playoffs.

Seattle has made the Western Conference final twice before but has never progressed to the MLS Cup final.

Montreal looked on the way to a comfortable win against Toronto when it led 3-0 after 53 minutes, but two late goals by the visitors leaves the tie in the balance.

The match was delayed 30 minutes by a groundskeeping error, but then Dominic Oduro, Matteo Mancosu and Ambroise Oyongo put Montreal well before a sellout crowd of 61,004 at Olympic Stadium.

However U.S. internationals Jozy Altidore and Michael Bradley both netted important away goals to boost the chances of avenging last season's defeat at the hands of the Impact in the playoffs. □

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JOSEPH PISANI
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — If you're looking to save a few bucks at the mall while holiday shopping, charge up the smartphone and bring these apps with you.

The four apps, which I've been using all year, can help find you coupons, compare prices or price match.

All are available for Apple and Android devices and are free to download:

AMAZON

You'll need the Amazon app to try to make sure you're not paying more than you have to.

While in a store, you can scan the barcodes of items you want to buy and see how much they cost on Amazon.

This is handy because many stores, including Best Buy, Target, Toys R Us and Walmart, will match prices if an item sold and shipped by Amazon is cheaper. You'll need to show the cashier the app with the price of the item.

And make sure to check each store's price-match-

ing rules, which are posted online. Many, for example, won't allow you to price-match from Thanksgiving Day through the following Monday.

CARTWHEEL BY TARGET

If you plan to shop at Target, download this separate coupon app. You can browse through the hundreds of coupons or use the app to scan the barcode of every item you throw in your cart.

When you do that, Cartwheel will tell if you if there's a coupon you can use or suggest a similar product that does have a deal.

When you get to the register to pay, just show the app; there's a barcode the cashier will scan to apply the discounts.

Recent deals include 25 percent off the latest "Call of Duty" video game and 30 percent off a set of wireless headphones.

Other stores, such as Macy's and Kohl's, post deals in their apps too, so it may be worth downloading apps for other stores you shop at often.

FLIPP

If you like to flip through promotional flyers to compare prices, try Flipp.

The app collects paper fly-

This app is a keeper beyond the holidays because it pulls flyers from a wide range of shops, including local grocery stores, phar-

RETAILMENOT

Open up this app at every store to make sure you're not missing any deals.

RetailMeNot lets you search by store, or you can turn on location services on your phone and have the app ping you when you're near a shop with deals — if you're not annoyed by alerts. For each store, RetailMeNot lists any coupons you can use either in the store or online.

This is helpful because if there's no in-store coupon, but there is an online one, you'll know to just purchase it from the website.

Gap, for example, recently had a 40 percent online coupon but none for in-store shoppers.

Keep in mind that most of the stores on RetailMeNot are national chains, so if you like to shop at smaller stores you likely won't find much. □



This June 18, 2014, file photo shows the app that links to shopping on Amazon.com on an Amazon Fire Phone, in Seattle.

Associated Press

ers for stores near you and makes them digital.

You can quickly scroll through them or digitally "clip" coupons that are saved in another part of the app.

And the design of the app makes it easy to quickly see the latest flyers from stores you frequent the most.

macy's and large department stores.

Gov't wants phone makers to lock out most apps for drivers

TOM KRISHER
AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — The government wants smartphone makers to lock out most apps when the phone is being used by someone driving a car.

The voluntary guidelines unveiled Wednesday are designed to reduce crashes caused by drivers distracted by phones. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration also wants automakers to make infotainment systems easy to pair with smartphones. Drivers could still make calls but the phones and automaker systems would lock out the ability to enter text. Internet browsing, video not related to driving, text from books, and photos also would be locked out. Navigation systems

would be permitted, but with guidelines on how to avoid driver distraction.

Fatal crashes caused by distracted drivers are on the rise, and that's contributing to a spike in traffic deaths during the past two years. The government says 3,477, or about 10 percent, of the more than 35,000 traffic fatalities last year involved distracted drivers. That's up 8.8 percent over 2014. Traffic deaths spiked 10.4 percent in the first six months of this year and rose 7.2 percent last year, after years of declines.

"With driver distraction one of the factors behind the rise of traffic fatalities, we are committed to working with the industry to ensure that mobile devices are designed to keep drivers'

eyes where they belong —on the road," NHTSA Administrator Mark Rosekind said in a statement.

Automakers already are moving this direction, with many offering Apple CarPlay and Android Auto that pair smartphones to car touch screens and allow limited use of the phone apps.

NHTSA wants phone makers to develop technology that can determine if someone is driving a car and then disable most of the apps. But at present, that technology doesn't exist. In its absence, the agency wants phones to have a "driver mode" that would be activated by the smartphone user.

General Motors, for instance, has the Apple and Android pairing system in



In this Wednesday, June 22, 2016, file photo, a driver uses her mobile phone while sitting in traffic in Sacramento, Calif.

Associated Press

about 40 models worldwide. Already, it prevents use of many phone functions that could cause distraction, spokesman Vijay Iyer said.

The system, he said, won't let drivers type a text message, but it does allow text by voice. "The fundamental direction is to keep your hands on the wheel, eyes

on the road and minimize distraction and offer up other means of interaction, primarily voice," he said.

NHTSA will take public comment for 60 days before deciding whether to put the guidelines in place. Unlike a federal government rule, auto and cellphone makers don't have to obey the guidelines. □

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Equipment firms power Dow, S&P 500 to new records

MARLEY JAY

AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Dow Jones industrial average and Standard & Poor's 500 indexes again set records Wednesday in a quiet day of pre-holiday trad-

Sameer Samana, a strategist for the Wells Fargo Investment Institute. The Dow rose 59.31 points, or 0.3 percent, to 19,083.18. The Standard & Poor's 500 index edged up 1.78 points, or 0.1 percent, to 2,204.72.

percent, to \$108.11. Both companies are Dow components, which contributed to the Dow's big gain. Printer and PC maker HP lost ground after it issued a profit forecast that disappointed investors. Its stock

Treasury note rose to 2.36 percent from 2.31 percent, its highest in almost a year and a half.

Higher bond yields are linked to higher interest rates, so the rising yields helped bank stocks turn higher. Capital One rose \$2.03, or 2.5 percent, to \$84.62 and Sterling Bancorp jumped 45 cents, or 2 percent, to \$23.50. The S&P 500 financial index is up 12 percent since the election while the S&P 500 itself is up 3 percent.

Eli Lilly dropped after saying a potential treatment for Alzheimer's disease failed in a clinical trial, as it did not slow down patients' mental decline compared to a placebo. Lilly fell \$7.99, or 10.5 percent, to \$68, its lowest value in two years. Biogen, which is also involved in studying a treatment for the disease, sank \$12.18, or 3.8 percent, to \$305.93.

The price of gold reached its lowest level since February as it tumbled \$21.90, or 1.8 percent, to \$1,189.30 an ounce. Silver fell 24 cents, or 1.4 percent, to \$16.39 an ounce. But copper picked up 6 cents, or 2.5 percent, to \$2.61 a pound.

It jumped in late October and November, when the broader market was falling as investors wondered about the outcome of the presidential election, and at one point it closed higher for 14 days in a row.

The metal's price kept rising after the election as investors hope demand will increase under a potential infrastructure stimulus from President-elect Donald Trump and a Republican-controlled Congress. □



Trader Timothy Nick works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. The Dow Jones industrial average and Standard & Poor's 500 indexes again set records Wednesday in a quiet day of pre-holiday trading.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

ing. Machinery and equipment makers climbed after strong results from Deere, but technology companies fell.

Stocks opened mostly lower, but they slowly recovered. Industrial companies like Caterpillar and United Technologies continued to rise. Banks also rose as bond yields climbed. Companies that make hardware and network devices skidded after printer and PC maker HP gave a weak profit forecast.

"It sends kind of a chill through the sector," said

The Nasdaq composite lost 5.67 points, or 0.1 percent, to 5,380.68. Trading was relatively light ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday. U.S. markets will be closed Thursday and will close early on Friday.

Already trading at all-time highs, industrial companies continued to rise after Deere's report. Construction and mining equipment maker Caterpillar gained \$2.56, or 2.7 percent, to \$96.18. United Technologies, which makes elevators, jet engines and other things, added \$1.17, or 1.1

gave up \$1.08, or 6.8 percent, to \$14.87. Tech stocks did very well this summer, but they have lagged the market since the presidential election. Samana said investors are concerned that President-elect Donald Trump's immigration policies will hurt their ability to hire workers.

Bond prices dropped, sending yields higher. The yield on the 2-year Treasury note rose to 1.13 percent from 1.09 percent. The yield on that note is at its highest in more than six years. The yield on the 10-year

Sales of new homes slipped over October

JOSH BOAK

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fewer Americans purchased new homes in October, but sales are still much stronger this year than in 2015 — a positive sign for the housing market.

The Commerce Department said Wednesday that new-home sales fell 1.9 percent last month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 563,000 units. Still, sales through the first 10 months of this year are 12.7 percent higher than during the same period in 2015.

Sales fell last month in the Northeast, Midwest and South, while improving in the West. Just 5.2 months' supply of new homes are available on the market, down from 5.6 months a year ago.

Separate reports point to strong demand as the market heals and more members of the millennial generation, ages 18 to 34, begin to purchase homes.

"The large millennial generation is expected to provide further demand for single-family housing as older millennials form families at an increasing rate," said David Berson, chief economist at the insurance company Nationwide. "Historically, there is a significant uptick in homeownership at the age of 35 - an age that the oldest millennials are reaching now."

The National Association of Realtors said Tuesday that sales of existing homes rose 2 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5.6 million.

The rising sales levels have yet to coax more sellers into the market. Sales listings for existing homes have fallen 4.3 percent over the past year to 2.02 million homes. The shortage has pushed up the median sales price of existing homes 6 percent from a year ago to \$232,200.

One uncertainty in the housing market will be mortgage rates, which helped fuel sales gains this year. □

US applications for unemployment aid rose last week

PAUL WISEMAN

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — More Americans sought unemployment benefits last week. But jobless claims remain at low levels, showing that most American workers enjoy job security.

The Labor Department says applications for jobless aid rose by 18,000 to a seasonally adjusted 251,000. They had fallen the previous

week to the lowest level since 1973. The less-volatile four-week average slid by 2,000 to 251,000. The overall number of people collecting unemployment checks was 2.04 million, down more than 6 percent from a year earlier. Applications for unemployment benefits are a proxy for layoffs. They have stayed below 300,000 for 90 straight weeks, longest streak since 1970.

Economists had expected the claims numbers to bounce back after falling the previous week to the lowest level since 1973. That drop might have been exaggerated by problems adjusting the numbers to account for the Veteran's Day holiday.

Claims at such low levels show that employers are confident enough in the economy to hold onto their

workers. The U.S. unemployment rate is 4.9 percent, close to what economists consider full employment. Workers last month enjoyed the biggest pay raises in seven years, another sign the job market is healthy. Still, hiring has slowed. So far this year, the economy is generating an average of 181,000 jobs a month, down from 229,000 a month in 2015. □

Another failure in the search for a treatment to slow Alzheimer's

TOM MURPHY
AP Health Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — An experimental treatment for Alzheimer's failed again in a widely anticipated study, disappointing many who had hoped drugmaker Eli Lilly had finally found a way to slow the progression of the mind-robbing disease.

The drug did not work better than a placebo treatment in a study of more than 2,100 people with mild Alzheimer's, the company announced Wednesday.

"We're incredibly saddened by the news," said Maria Carrillo, chief science officer of the Alzheimer's Association, who was not involved in Lilly's research. "There was a lot of hope for this avenue, this approach."

Wall Street analysts had given Lilly's drug relatively low odds of success. Even so, shares of Indianapolis-based Eli Lilly and Co. plunged more than 10 percent, or \$8.02, to \$67.97 Wednesday afternoon. Shares of other drugmakers researching Alzheimer's treatments, like Biogen Inc., also sank in early trading.

Alzheimer's experts had modest expectations for the drug, called solanezumab (sohl-ah-NAYZ'-uh-mab). It had already failed in two large studies in people with mild-to-moderate forms of the disease. Combined results, however, suggested that the drug might work for those with the mildest symptoms.

Lilly started another study, testing monthly infusions of the drug for 18 months in those patients.

The drug binds to a protein called amyloid that builds up in the brains of Alzheimer's patients. The drug clears the protein from the brain before it can clump together to form a sticky plaque between nerve cells. Researchers think the protein triggers the degenerative disease, which impairs memory and thought.

Amyloid still plays some role, and it's premature to abandon the notion of targeting it, said a specialist who has led many previous failed Alzheimer's drug studies. "When you get a result like this you have to question, is it the stage of the disease, is it the particular drug you are testing, or is it some combination? Or is the strategy wrong?" said Dr. Stephen Salloway, neurology chief at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island. "We don't know the answer."

Lilly's drug is still being studied in two other major tests. One involves patients with a rare, inherited form of Alzheimer's, and the other is a prevention trial of people who have no symptoms but have deposits of amyloid in their brain as seen on scans.

At least 18 other drugs are in late-stage testing, including several similar to solanezumab. Dietary therapies, supplements and even a medical device also are being tried.

"There are other approaches that we need to pursue," Carrillo said. "We need to redouble our efforts."

Scientists say the search for a better Alzheimer's treatment presents several problems. They also believe changes in the brain of a person with Alzheimer's begin many years before the patient shows symptoms. That means that by the time diagnosis happens, the brain may be essentially too damaged for potential treatments to work.

Lilly has spent about \$3 billion over the past 27 years on Alzheimer's research. One of the drugmaker's researchers, Dr. Eric Siemers, said the latest results were a "bump in the road," and scientists are looking forward to learning more from the results of other potential treatments. "We're continuing to go forward, it's just not as fast as we would like," said Siemers. □

Fed minutes raise outlook for December hike

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal Reserve officials earlier this month believed it would be appropriate to raise a key interest rate "relatively soon," with some arguing for a hike at the Fed's next meeting in December in order to preserve the Fed's credibility.

Minutes of the Nov. 1-2 meeting released Wednes-

day show that officials were moving closer to hiking rates for the first time in nearly a year. Many analysts said they were still looking for just two hikes next year. But others said the Fed might make three hikes if President-elect Donald Trump succeeds in pushing a big tax cut package and infrastructure bill through Congress.

"Fiscal stimulus under the Trump administration could lead to stronger growth in output and prices, prompt-

tion that officials discussed the presidential election. In the policy statement released after the meeting, the Fed dropped hints that it was moving closer to a decision to raise rates at its December meeting.

While the Fed's discussions occurred before the election of Trump as president, Fed Chair Janet Yellen indicated last week that the election has not changed



Chair Yellen

Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen, center, poses for a photo with Joint Economic Committee Chairman Sen. Dan Coats, R-Ind., left, and ranking member Rep. Carolyn Maloney, D-N.Y., on Capitol Hill in Washington. Minutes of the Nov. 1-2 meeting released Wednesday show that Fed officials were moving closer to hiking rates for the first time in nearly a year.

(AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

day show that Fed officials were moving closer to hiking rates for the first time in nearly a year. Some officials argued that if the

Fed did not raise rates at its December meeting, it ran the risk of harming the central bank's credibility given the many signals it had sent about an impending hike. Private economists who widely expect the Fed will boost its benchmark rate by a quarter-point at its Dec. 13-14 meeting said there was nothing in the minutes to change their forecast.

"The Fed meeting minutes say that the case for a rate hike keeps on getting stronger and stronger," said Chris Rupkey, chief financial economist at MUFG Union Bank in New York. "A rate hike is coming in December."

Rupkey and other analysts said the open question is how many further hikes will

ing the Fed to tighten policy more rapidly going forward," said Sara Johnson, an economist with Global Insight.

At the November meeting, the central bank left its benchmark rate unchanged in a range of 0.25 percent to 0.5 percent, where it has been all year. There had been little expectation of a rate hike then. Economists believed that the Fed would not want to risk destabilizing financial markets with a rate hike just before voters went to the polls.

The decision was approved on an 8-2 vote. Federal Reserve bank presidents Esther George of Kansas City and Loretta Mester of Cleveland dissented because they favored an immediate rate hike.

The minutes, which were released with the customary three week delay from the meeting, gave no indica-

Fed thinking on the timing of the next rate hike. Yellen told the Joint Economic Committee that the case for a rate increase has "continued to strengthen and that such an increase could well become appropriate relatively soon."

The CME Group's Fed-Watch barometer, which tracks investors' moves in the futures market, puts the probability of a hike in December at 93.5 percent.

The Fed increased its benchmark rate, the federal funds rate, by a quarter-point last December, the first increase in the rate in seven years. At the time, it projected that it would hike the rate another four times in 2016. But a significant slowdown in U.S. growth in the first half of the year, as well as global weakness and periodic bouts of financial market turbulence, has kept the central bank on the sidelines. □

Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku



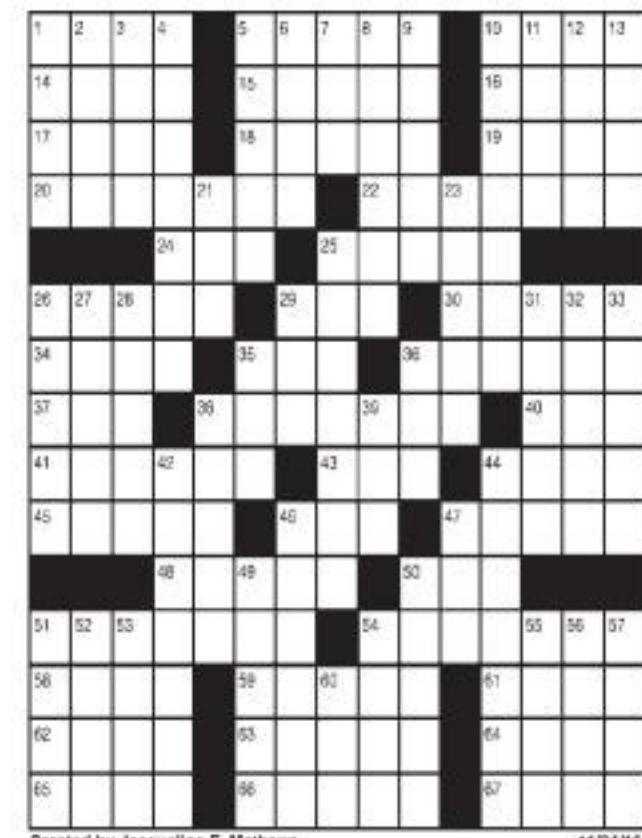
Difficulty Level ★★★

11/24

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

3	4	2	1	8	5	9	7	6
9	6	8	2	7	4	1	3	5
5	1	7	3	9	6	4	8	2
4	7	5	8	3	1	6	2	9
2	8	9	6	4	7	5	1	3
1	3	6	5	2	9	7	4	8
6	2	1	4	5	8	3	9	7
8	9	4	7	6	3	2	5	1
7	5	3	9	1	2	8	6	4

Yesterday's puzzle answer



Scanned by Google - E. M. -

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved



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- | 40 Wedding words | | DOWN |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------|
| 41 Required | 1 "O ___, All Ye | PRONG |
| 43 Bather's spot | Faithful" | ROVER |
| 44 Songbird | 2 Pinnacle | OMEGA |
| 45 Speak without preparation | 3 Brown seaweed | SENATORS |
| 46 Basketball hoop's edge | 4 Plead with | TIDE |
| 47 "Put your money __ your mouth is!" | 5 Involuntary contraction | PLANETS |
| 48 Purple shade | 6 Church service | DEFEND |
| 50 Misery | 7 Ms. MacGraw | EAR |
| 51 Spins | 8 Baggage porter | GENES |
| 54 Skillful handling of a situation | 9 __ on; trample | PREP |
| 58 Border on | 10 Long steps | RODEO |
| 59 __ squash; winter veggie | 11 Press clothes | SUCH |
| 61 Property owner's paper | 12 Early guitar | PLEAS |
| 62 Trait transmitter | 13 SAT, for one | MARRY |
| 63 Actor Willem | 21 Antlered animal | RHO |
| 64 Slender; slim | 23 Start | STEAL |
| 65 Black-__ peas | 25 Zealot | BELLOW |
| 66 Criticizes harshly | 26 Swedish dollar | MUSTARD |
| 67 Actress Samma | 27 Had a bug | NILE |
| | 28 Song of an Alpine goatherd | ENTIRE |
| | 29 Facial twitch | OUTLASTS |
| | 31 Blazing | ADAM |
| | 32 Equestrian | CLAD |
| | 33 TV's __ Phillips | IDAHo |
| | 35 Actor Damon | LUGE |
| | | SEES |
| | | SASS |
| | | GREET |

Thanksgiving travel expected to be heaviest since 2007: officials

TAMMY WEBBER
Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Elizabeth Thompson can't wait to leave the big city behind and decompress over the Thanksgiving holiday at her grandmother's house in rural south-central Indiana. But first she has to get there. On Wednesday, Thompson, 23, missed her Amtrak train from Chicago to Galesburg, Illinois, where she'd planned to catch a ride with a family member the rest of the way to Edinburgh, Indiana.

"It's just where we go to unplug and escape," said Thompson, who had to decide whether to wait several hours for the next train or hop on a bus and get going.

Americans took to the roads, air and railways Wednesday for what is expected to be the busiest Thanksgiving travel period in almost a decade. Almost 49 million people are

expected to travel 50 miles or more between Wednesday and Sunday, the most since 2007, because of lower gas prices and an improving economy, according to AAA.

And while they look forward to eating turkey and watching football, many are ready to abandon another, more recent,

"My mother specifically said, 'We're not going to talk about it,'" for her grandmother's sake, Thompson said. Although nobody in her family supported President-elect Trump, "my grandmother is sick of hearing about it." Sitting on their suitcases at a departure lounge at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago, a major travel hub, Sharyn Ioffe and her brother Saul Ioffe said there's a good chance politics will intervene this Thanksgiving when they arrive home in New York. □

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Sweat it out! Skin patch aims to test sweat for health

LAURAN NEERGAARD

AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Breaking a sweat? Researchers are creating a skin patch that can test those droplets while people exercise and beam results to their smartphones, possibly a new way to track health and fitness.

The experimental gadget goes well beyond activity monitors like the Fitbit. A little larger than a quarter, it's almost like a tiny lab stuck to the skin — and a study published Wednesday found it worked on sweaty bicyclists, sticking even during a long-distance race in Arizona.

If you think of perspiration as just a drippy nuisance, think again.

"Sweat has biochemical components within it that tell us a lot about physiological health," said John A. Rogers, who directs Northwestern University's Center for Bio-Integrated Electronics and led the new research.

Today's wearable technology helps people track their calories, activity and



This photo provided by J. Rogers, Northwestern University, shows a soft, skin mounted microfluidic device for capture, collection and analysis of sweat.

Associated Press

heart rate. A wearable bio-sensor would be "radically different," Rogers said.

For simple fitness purposes, it could give an early warning that it's time to replenish electrolytes before someone starts to feel dehydrated. But eventually with additional research, Rogers envisions more sophisticated use of such devices, such as real-time monitoring of how the body adjusts during military training, or even to screen people for

diseases such as diabetes or cystic fibrosis.

Rogers, who did much of the research while at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, has long worked to develop electronic devices that can stretch and twist with the body. The skin-like sweat patch adds a capability called microfluidics, capturing and analyzing tiny amounts of body fluid.

How it works: Stick the patch on the skin and start moving. Tiny channels collect perspiration and route it to different compartments where it interacts with chemicals that change color to reflect sweat loss, the perspiration's acidity level, and concentrations of chloride, glucose and lactate.

Together, those measurements can indicate such

things as hydration levels or electrolyte loss. Hold a smartphone over the patch, and an app takes a picture of the colors and interprets what they mean.

In two studies reported Wednesday, Rogers' team stuck patches to the arms and backs of 21 healthy volunteers. Nine rode exercise bikes in a gym to compare the sweat patches' performance with the decidedly lower-tech method of sweat-testing used today — taping on absorbent pads and carting the resulting wet samples to a laboratory.

For a more real-world test, the other 12 bicyclists wore the patches while competing in a long-distance outdoor race in Tucson.

The patches stayed in place and worked even in the challenging outdoor race, and the patches' biochemical test results agreed with the indoor bikers' conventional sweat tests, the researchers re-

ported in the journal *Science Translational Medicine*.

"It seems really practical," said Stanford University chemical engineering professor Zhenan Bao, who also researches novel biomedical materials but wasn't involved with the sweat patch. By simply looking at a color change, "such a patch allows people to now have an opportunity to understand their health and how it changes depending on activities."

It's a growing field: Other research groups around the country, including some of Bao's colleagues, are pursuing wearable biosensors.

Rogers' sweat patches are designed for one-time use over a few hours. While Wednesday's studies used an early version that analyzed sweat just once during the exercise, he's now testing a design capable of multiple measurements over time. □

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24/7

From the dead: HG Wells ghost story published for first time

HILLEL ITALIE

AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Here's an odd story, from long ago: A man by the name of Meredith has converted a room in his house to a cluttered, dirty study. Meredith has a taste for Scotch whisky and one day asks a visiting friend, the story's narrator, if he doesn't notice something odd about the ceiling.

"Don't you see it?" he said.

"See what?"

"The — thing. The woman." "I shook my head and looked at him."

"All right then," he said abruptly.

"Don't see it!"

This brief hybrid of ghost tale and detective story is called "The Haunted Ceiling" and its author is H.G. Wells, later known for such science-fiction classics as "The Invisible Man" and "The Time Machine." He apparently wrote "The Haunted Ceiling" in the mid-1890s, when he was around 30, and left it unseen by others.

It debuts this week, more than a century later.

"The atmosphere of this story was vintage Wells in that his stories always had the theme of an individual who is completely alone and is struggling to understand something mysterious," said Andrew Gulli, managing editor of The Strand Magazine, a literary quarterly in which "The Haunted Ceiling" appears. "At times, you'll finish the story questioning whether

you've read something either psychological or macabre."

Gulli says he found "The Haunted Ceiling" after contacting the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and asking for materials from the school's Wells archive.

After looking through over 3,000 pages of manuscripts, he came upon the story and realized it was unpublished.

"The Haunted Ceiling" is so obscure that two Wells scholars, Patrick Parrinder and Michael Sherborne, said they had never seen it before.

Judging from the style and content, they guessed it dated to around 1895, when ghost stories were popular and Wells was both prolific and in need of money.

"So the puzzle is, why was this one either never sold, or if sold never published?" says Parrinder, whose books include "Shadows of the Future: H.G. Wells, Science Fiction, and Prophecy."

Wells was a versatile writer and completed some notable paranormal tales.

In "The Story of the Inexperienced Ghost," a man relates an occult encounter, becomes more and more agitated, collapses and dies, the narrator observing that "whether he did indeed pass there by that poor ghost's incantation, or whether he was stricken suddenly by apoplexy in the midst of an idle tale —

as the coroner's jury would have us believe — is no matter for my judging."

Sherborne does not consider "The Haunted Ceiling" a masterpiece, but praised the way "Wells focuses the tale through a skeptical narrator, an active personality who looks likely to provide the passive victim with a reassuring solution, only for a supernatural element to be reintroduced after all at the end."

"It's not one of Wells' very best stories," he added, "but it is a skillfully assembled anecdote which would, I think, be very effective as a self-contained magazine item." □



This Nov. 8, 1937, file photo shows author H.G. Wells. Wells' "The Haunted Ceiling" will appear in The Strand Magazine, a literary quarterly that has unearthed obscure works by F. Scott Fitzgerald, John Steinbeck.

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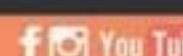


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In this Nov. 8, 2016 photo released by NBC, an election map appears in the background as Mike Murphy, from left, Chuck Todd, Lester Holt, Savannah Guthrie and Tom Brokaw, appear during NBC News coverage of the election in New York.

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3D VERSION
MON-THURS 5:25 | 7:50
FRI 5:25 | 7:50 | 10:15
SAT 3:00 | 5:25 | 7:50 | 10:15
SUN & HOL 3:00 | 5:25 | 7:50

ALLIED BRAD PITT | MARION COTILLARD

MON-SUN & HOL 3:50 | 6:30 | 9:10

BILLY LYNN'S LONG HALFTIME WALK JOE ALWYN | GARRETT HEDLUND

MON-THURS 4:25 | 6:55 | 9:25
FRI 4:25 | 6:55 | 9:25 | 11:55
SAT 2:00 | 4:25 | 6:55 | 9:25 | 11:55
SUN & HOL 2:00 | 4:25 | 6:55 | 9:25

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Was cable TV election poll coverage a waste of time?

DAVID BAUDER
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — It's understandable if Bill Hemmer, John King and Steve Kornacki still see flashing maps of blue and red states in their mind's eye before drifting off to sleep. Each man was assigned by his television network to stand before a map of the U.S. several times a day during the election campaign to talk about the latest polls and speculate on "paths to victory" for Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump. Given the Republican's surprise win, it's hard not to wonder whether it was wasted time that in future campaigns might be better spent trying to understand voters or the more substantive issues facing a new president.

"I do not feel it was a wasted political exercise at all," said Hemmer, of Fox News Channel. "Based on the level of national interest in this story, people were hungry for information and it was our duty to provide that."

The one dominant theme of the map-side discussions was that Clinton had the clear advantage, and that many things had to go right for Trump to win. "If you Googled it, you would probably hear the phrase 'inside straight' several times, because that was what they needed," Hemmer said.

There were signs in the campaign's final days that things were tightening, and it was reflected in the reporting. Nate Silver of ESPN's 538 blog, in fact, was sharply criticized by Clinton supporters the weekend before the election for not being as bullish about their candidate's chances as others were.

Even on the afternoon of election day, pollster Ed Rollins said on Fox it would take a miracle for Trump to win. The New York Times' Upshot blog, which carried a constantly updating dial on each candidate's chance of winning, early

that day pegged Clinton's chances at 84 percent. Forecasters like Silver, who built his reputation on his 2012 success, increased the appetite for Hemmer, King and Kornacki's work. Obsessives hung on every word, every poll.

"I was as shocked as everyone as it turned on election night," MSNBC's Kornacki said. "There was about a 20-minute period, looking at Florida, in North Carolina and in Virginia, that just turned upside down everything I thought about where this was heading." Kornacki takes some comfort in the knowledge that he repeatedly told viewers that Rust Belt states like Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin were the secret to any Trump victory scenario.

Four days before the election, Trump's polling team came to Fox News to show Hemmer that their research was more positive than public surveys were reflecting. They turned out to be right; at the time Hemmer had to worry if he was being spun.

Polling captures a moment in time when only one moment — election day — really matters. And the public polls are generally ill-equipped to fully capture changes happening in the last days of the campaign. Thomas Patterson, a professor who teaches about politics and the press at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, wrote a decade ago about the flood of polls damaging campaign coverage. He called them a cheap branding opportunity for universities and media organizations.

Things haven't changed since then, he said.

"The problem with polls when you have that many is that it's cheap and easy journalism," Patterson said. "The audience is interested and you get new stuff every day. At some point, when you pay that much attention (to polls), it hijacks the news."

In an upcoming study, Patterson found that no substantive issue brought up by Clinton attracted more than 1 percent of campaign coverage. The candidates shoulder some blame for the type of campaigns they ran, but the finding also reflected how it was covered, he said.

Polls are especially tempting for cable networks with endless hours to fill, where talking about the news often beats reporting it. They become the mirror that reflects everything: much of the discussion over Clinton's use of a private email server was not about the issue itself, but rather how it would affect her popularity, he said. Clinton was often covered as the next president, Trump as a curiosity and sure loser.

Michigan-based filmmaker Michael Moore, who predicted a Trump victory last summer, is seen now as a seer for his knowledge of a region often overlooked by national news organizations. His post-election appearance on MSNBC's "Morning Joe" was gripping television and the failure to read attitudes in the Midwest has dominated media post-mortems.

CNN, which declined to make King available to talk for this story, hired as a contributor Salena Zito, a former Pittsburgh newspaper reporter who, like Moore, had seen clearly what was coming.

MSNBC's Kornacki, a political junkie who volunteered for his map duty, argued that studying the polls is as important to spot trends as better regional reporting, even with the spotty performance this year. "We cannot go out and conduct 350 million interviews across the country," he said.

The veteran political observer Patterson needs no poll to predict what the current media self-examination will result in.

"When the flag drops the next time," he said, "I don't think it will be that different." □

How a bunch of boxes changed the course of a documentary

MARK KENNEDY

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Lonny Price had just started editing his first documentary when a bunch of boxes showed up. What was in them would change everything.

The director was working on a movie about the making of Stephen Sondheim's 1981 ill-fated musical "Merrily We Roll Along," which closed after just 16 Broadway performances. Price had a unique perspective, having been one of the main stars in the ill-fated show.

While he was working on his film — "Best Worst Thing That Ever Could Have Happened," which opened in New York last weekend and heads to Los Angeles before it shows in more cities in December — Price craved what he didn't have.

He remembered that 35

years ago, when he and his young cast were preparing for their Broadway opening, a film crew from ABC had captured their tryouts and rehearsals for their own aborted documentary.

Price wanted that footage. ABC said it was destroyed. He didn't believe it.

Price hired a specialist who finds lost footage. His forecast was grim: "He said, 'You have a nine percent chance of finding this.' Not even 10 — only a nine percent chance," said Price. "I said, 'I think it's there.'"

After years of filming, Price was two days deep into editing his documentary when 37 boxes of film canisters were delivered from a sprawling site in Connecticut. They contained the raw, behind-the-scenes footage from "Merrily We Roll Along" auditions and rehearsals.

"It was one of the best days

of my lives," he recalled. Price might now have to stop and absorb the new footage, but he was happy. "It would have been a very different movie obviously if I hadn't found it."

The documentary is as much a look at how the original cast approached the show as what the show did to the cast. Price interviewed them all, including "Seinfeld" star Jason Alexander, to find out what happened after the musical closed.

Many had their theater dreams crushed and left the business, others struggled on. "We all turned out OK and I think we all feel OK," Price said. "I think there's a price you pay to hold onto your dreams and there's a price you pay to give them up."

For a movie that explores youthful idealism, getting that lost footage was crucial. Price had filmed some



In this image released by O&M/DKC, Lonny Price, left, Ann Morrison, and Jim Walton, right, castmembers in the Stephen Sondheim 1981 musical, "Merrily We Roll Along," pose in New York. The show closed after just 16 Broadway performances.

Associated Press

university students performing the musical to act as stand-ins, but getting his hands on the real first cast

— including himself — was priceless.

"It was the Holy Grail," he said. □

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"Joy" or "hope"? Holiday giving may depend on how you voted

ANNE D'INNOCENZIO

AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — This holiday season, elves and "joy" may be on the way out and "peace" and "hope" on the way in. A divisive election that left half the country deflated and the other half rejuvenated could reverberate through the holiday shopping season in the gifts people give or how they spend.

Some retailers say they have seen a surge in feel-good items such as spa treatments, candles and comfort food, while executives at some major retailers like Wal-Mart, Target and Macy's have said there's no discernable shift in consumer behavior since the presidential election won by Republican Donald Trump.

The divide in the outlook may reflect the rift in the election, as Americans split along geographic lines as well as by income.

"I don't need a comfort



In this Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2016, photo, Lee Rhodes, owner of Glassybaby, holds one of her votive candle holders and several cards used for individual descriptions of each holder made there, including "kindness," "comfort" and "hope," in her shop in Seattle.

Associated Press

traditional gifts like sweatshirts to donations to charity groups in their friends' or relatives' names.

Ryan Holmes of Chicago, who voted for Democrat Hillary Clinton, said he

towards spending on experiences. Factors from the weather to when Thanksgiving falls already affect how stores fare at the holidays, and retailers from department stores to discounters are under intense pressure from online sellers to offer low prices and convenience.

A dip in buying before a presidential election is normal as people are distracted, but spending usually bounces back afterward.

Tamara Gaffney, principal analyst and director at Adobe Systems, an online research company, said that between Nov. 1 and Nov. 14 this year, retailers lost out on more than \$800 million in online revenue, with the sharpest drop happening after the Nov. 8 election. States that voted Democratic have seen the biggest drops since the election, she said. Gaffney says she's waiting to see how the Thanksgiving weekend plays out and may have to revise the original holiday online sales growth forecast of 11 percent.

"We are in uncharted territory," said Gerald Storch, the CEO of Hudson's Bay Co., which operates department stores under that name, Lord & Taylor and Saks Fifth Avenue. "We will know more as we get past Black Friday."

The divide could play into

the hands of retailers who customize goods to cater to increasingly fragmented tastes.

"While some people might drive an election boost, there are going to be others that will hold back," said Frank Badillo, director of research at consumer research group MacroSavvy LLC. "The winners and losers are going to be divided by category, by store, by different parts of the country."

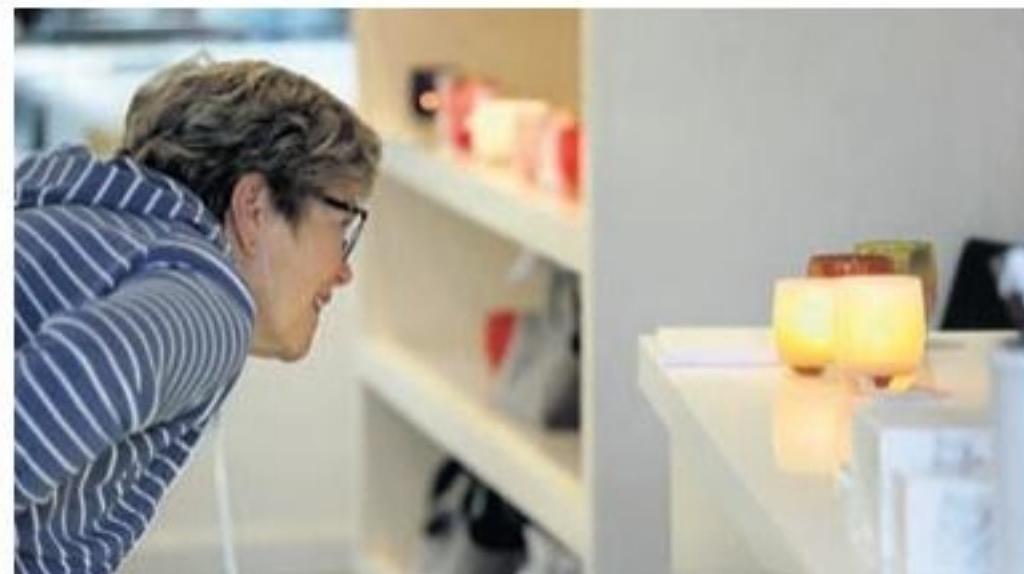
Peter Gold, chief marketing

are seeing sales as much as double since the election, says Lee Rhodes, founder and CEO of the nine-store Glassybaby chain that sells handblown glass items. Those with themes like "elf" and "joy" have not kept pace, she said.

Nielsen's most recent surveys have shown that food has catapulted into the No. 2 spot in terms of hot holiday gifts, past toys and consumer electronics this season, said Jordan Rost of the company's consumer insights division. Gift cards ranked first, as they have for several years. He said food is a safe bet for retailers because millennials turn to comfort food when they are stressed, and baby boomers turn to food as a reward.

Mariam Naficy, whose online retail site Minted crowdsources stationery as well as art and home decor, noticed a gap in what customers wanted in greeting cards. After rising 9 percent since Oct. 1 in all states, the demand for the word "cheer," in holiday cards has fallen 14 percent since the election. Demand for cards using "peace," which is not usually as popular, was up 14 percent, and those using "hope" rose 9 percent.

"We are scrambling quickly



In this Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2016, photo, customer Chris Connacher carefully compares votive candle holders as she makes a Thanksgiving gift purchase at the hand-blown glass shop Glassybaby, in Seattle.

Associated Press

dog. I don't need anybody to feel sorry for me," said Rhondi Bleeker, 50, of Totowa, New Jersey. "I'm actually happy because I was for Trump."

Bleeker, who owns an eyelash extension business, believes the economy will be better now. She says she'll still be spending the same \$3,000 as she does every holiday season, but she believes her business could do even better because whether people are sad or happy, most will want retail therapy.

Some shoppers say they plan to divert money from

plans to devote at least one-quarter of the \$750 he typically spends on holiday gifts to doing that. Even for gifts like music or books, he says he can't help but feel he might make a political statement such as perhaps giving a book on climate change to educate a friend.

"I am frightened to what's to come, and sad and less hopeful," said Holmes, 34, an urban planning and real estate consultant. But he added, "I'm feeling more engaged."

Shoppers have generally been moving away from buying "stuff" and more



In this Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2016, photo, Lee Rhodes, owner of Glassybaby, poses for a photo near votive candle holders on display at her shop in Seattle.

Associated Press

officer at Market America's online marketplace Shop.com, says since late October he's seen a sales surge in spa products, candles, and comfort food that he expects will continue through the holidays.

Products that bear words like "hope" and "kindness"

to repurpose the cards," said Naficy. "Half the audience is happy; the other half are not. Some people are trying to send love in their own way — some people want to send love in a quiet way. You have to have something for everyone." □